

THURSDAY JULY 4 1996

No. 65,623

MISSION IMPROBABLE

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WANTED

- Consultant.....100K
- Marketing.....100K
- Personnel.....65K
- Director.....55K

TOP LOSS SECTION 3

Stone of Scone goes home to Scotland after 700 years

By ALAN HAMILTON



The Stone: symbol of Scottish subjugation

THE Stone of Scone, the talisman of Scottish nationhood stolen by Edward I of England 700 years ago, is to be returned home.
The 336lb lump of yellow sandstone known in its homeland as the Stone of Destiny will be taken from Westminster Abbey, where it has been used in the coronation of some thirty British monarchs, and placed in an "appropriate setting", possibly Edinburgh Castle.

In a surprise statement yesterday, the Prime Minister told the Commons: "The Stone had a special place in the heart of Scots. I believe that on this, the 700th anniversary of its removal, it is appropriate to return it to its historic homeland."

"The Stone of Destiny is the most ancient symbol of Scottish kingship... on the advice of Her Majesty's ministers, the Queen has agreed that the Stone should be returned to Scotland." It would, however, remain the property of the Crown and be taken back to London when future sovereigns were crowned.
John Major added that the Government would canvass Scottish and Church opinion on where it should be kept. "It might be displayed in Edinburgh Castle, alongside the Honours of Scotland, Europe's oldest crown jewels. Alternatively, it might be appropriate to place it in St Margaret's Chapel inside the castle or in St Giles Cathedral."

The Prime Minister insisted, how-

ever, that this was not a precedent that might lead to the return of other artefacts — such as the Elgin Marbles — to their homelands.
Like the Marbles, the Stone has been the subject of countless campaigns by those demanding its return to its rightful home. But, unlike the Greeks, the Scots cannot be sure that they have been fighting for the genuine article.
Legend has it that the Stone was used by Jacob as a pillow when he rested his head in Bethel, and that it eventually reached Ireland by way of Egypt and Spain.
In Ireland it was supposedly used as a coronation throne by the High Kings of Tara, and was taken to Scotland by the Irish who invaded the land of the Picts in the ninth

century. Irish tradition claims that if a true royal sat upon it to be crowned, the stone groaned; if the sitter were a mere pretender, it stayed silent.
Kenneth Mac Alpin, first king of the united tribes of Picts and Scots was the first Scottish king to be crowned on the Stone at Scone — a village on the edge of Perth which served for a time as the nation's capital — in 839. And from then on, it served at the coronation of all Scottish kings up to John Balliol, the English puppet monarch, in 1292.
Four years later, Edward I of England marched north to subdue the rebellious William Wallace and took the Stone home with him, placing it under a specially made chair in Westminster Abbey as a

symbol of Scotland's subjugation. All English and British monarchs since then have been crowned sitting on St Edward's Coronation Chair, with the belief persists among some Scots nationalists that the monks of Scone allowed Edward to make off with a bogus copy. And there have been further doubts about the provenance of the Stone in Westminster Abbey since its brief repatriation by a nationalist quartet on Christmas morning in 1950.
It was broken while being dragged to the borrowed Ford used to spirit it north of the border, and the Glasgow builder who repaired it hinted before he died that the stone recovered in the ruins of Arbroath abbey the following April was a

copy. One of the thieves, Ian Hamilton, QC, insists: "The Stone that came from Westminster was the one that went back", but his fellow conspirator Kay Matheson will not say whether the original or a replica was returned.
Yesterday Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, promised to prove that the Stone in Westminster Abbey was genuine. He said that after the 1950 theft, stringent tests were carried out to authenticate it, and the files would now be released to end all doubt. "They do indeed show that the authentic Stone rests in Westminster Abbey."

Matthew Parris, page 2
Rivals fight, page 3
Leading article, page 21

Yeltsin heading for clear victory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN was last night heading for a historic victory in Russia's first elections for a head of state, after he established a clear lead against Gennadi Zyuganov, his Communist rival.
Voters turned out in their millions to back the ailing incumbent for a second term and reject the communist desire to turn the country back to the days of Soviet rule.
With 6 per cent of the nationwide presidential vote counted, Interfax news agency reported that Mr Yeltsin had nearly 50 per cent to Mr Zyuganov's 38 per cent. An exit poll, quoted by CNN television, gave Mr Yeltsin 55 per cent compared to 40 per cent for Mr Zyuganov.

According to unofficial results in Russia's Far East and Siberia, where voting finished first, the Kremlin leader had recorded a clear lead in every major region. Although the area is sparsely populated, it has served as an accurate barometer for the voting trends in the rest of the country in the past two nationwide polls.

Mr Zyuganov cancelled a press conference which was due to have been held just after the announcement of early results.
Experts said that the key voter turnout figure needed to be above 60 per cent for a Yeltsin win, and soon afterwards it was announced that 65.7 per cent of the 107 million registered voters had gone to the polls.

Yesterday's elections began on a tense note after President Yeltsin failed to appear at his scheduled polling station and rumours quickly spread that he had suffered a heart attack.

However, the Russian leader did later emerge to vote at Barvika, a village outside

Moscow where he has his country residence. He appeared a little unsteady and stiff, but otherwise seemed in better form than during his last two television appearances.

"All of you, absolutely all of you, come and vote. Do not neglect your duty," he said.
For his part, Mr Zyuganov seemed relaxed when he went to vote in central Moscow and even began discussing the tactics he intended to employ when he came to power.

Most of the other candidates in last month's first round of voting came out in favour of President Yeltsin. General Aleksandr Lebed, who came third in the race and has since allied himself to the Russian leader, predicted a comfortable re-election victory for the incumbent. Grigori Yavlinsky, who came fourth in June's vote, also endorsed President Yeltsin's bid.

Only Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, and Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, could not bring themselves to support either candidate and ticked the box marked "against all candidates" on the ballot paper.
A defeat for Mr Zyuganov could mean the end of his tenure as Communist Party leader and will almost certainly signal the collapse of the broad coalition of leftist and nationalist forces that had supported his campaign.

While some infringements of the electoral laws were recorded, there have been no reports of any gross violations. For the most part, in choosing the leader, the voice of the Russian public was heard for the first time in the nation's history.

Cynical support, page 17
Leading article, page 21



Sir Cliff Richard sings to the Centre Court crowd as rain delays play at Wimbledon yesterday with Martina Navratilova joining in the impromptu concert

Sir Cliff sings in the rain at Wimbledon

SIR CLIFF RICHARD entertained spectators at Wimbledon with an impromptu concert on Centre Court yesterday after rain stopped play for several hours.
Top past and present women players, including Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade, Pam Shriver, and Conchita Martinez formed a chorus line behind the veteran pop star as they sang, danced and clapped along to hits like *Summer Holiday*, *Bachelor Boy*, *Living Doll*, and *Congratulations*.
In the royal box, Prince Michael of Kent joined in as Sir Cliff sang at the request of Christopher Gorringe, the chief executive of the All England Club.

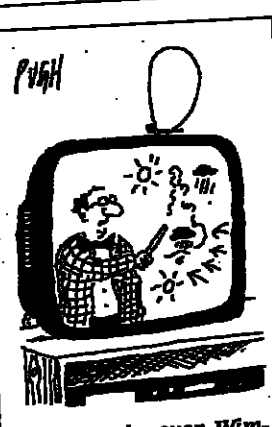
In between songs, Sir Cliff, 56, said: "I never thought I would play on the Centre Court at Wimbledon."

The rain stopped eventually and Pete Sampras, the defending champion and number one seed, lost the first two sets of his quarter-final against the unseeded Richard Krajicek before play was suspended for the day.

Match reports, pages 45, 48

Major is put on spot by £9,000 pay rises for MPs

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY



"More rain over Wimbledon, so remember to bring those earplugs"

Casket £50,000

The widow of T.S. Eliot has donated £50,000 to help to save the Thomas à Becket casket for the nation.

Valerie Eliot's pledge gives a boost to the Victoria and Albert Museum's chances of competing at Sotheby's auction today for the 19th century treasure.

Page 2

JOHN MAJOR was confronted with an acute dilemma last night after an independent body recommended big pay increases for MPs and ministers ranging from £9,000 for backbenchers to £34,000 for Cabinet members.

The Cabinet must decide this morning whether to endorse the recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Body. These would take the pay of the Prime Minister to £143,000 from £84,000 after the General Election and bring in an immediate increase of 26 per cent for MPs, taking their salaries from July 1 this year from £34,000 to £43,000.

Ministers would also receive an immediate rise of £17,000 as a result of the body's proposal that they

should immediately get their full pay as an MP on top of their ministerial salary.

At present ministers receive only £25,660 of their MP's salary. Under the plan they would get the full £43,000 proposed for MPs, in addition to their ministerial pay.

The Cabinet will almost certainly follow Mr Major's lead and urge restraint, posing that the rise be brought in over several stages, possibly starting with a 3 per cent rise in January.

But with Tory backbenchers having a free vote, and Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown also allowing their MPs to make up their own minds, the Government would face the serious possibility of defeat when the Commons debates the issue next Wednesday. Mr

Major's difficulty is that if he were to allow the recommendations through without challenge, in order to avert the embarrassment of defeat, his demands for moderate public sector pay awards would be compromised.

As details of the report were leaked last night Mr Major ran into an immediate backlash from unions, and some backbench MPs. The Government has been put on the spot by the recommendation that the increases for MPs, including the MPs' component of ministerial salaries, should come into effect immediately. It had been expecting the proposal to refer to the period from January 1 next year.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Peter Riddell, page 11

German team says *danke schön* to England

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND ROGER BOYES

THE German football team has taken out a full-page advertisement in *The Times* to thank the people of England and the football authorities for their hospitality during the Euro 96 championship.

The team, which beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in the final on Sunday, paid nearly £20,000 for the advertisement, which states: "Many thanks for the great hospitality in England, for

the fair play shown by the English public for the smooth organisation of Euro 96. Football came home and England felt like home."

Wolfgang Niersbach, chief press officer for the German Football Association, said that the team had met with warmth and hospitality from members of the public, hotel staff, fans, players and officials everywhere.

In Manchester, where they stayed for most of the championship, they developed a close relationship with the Lord Mayor and with Alex

Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. Herr Niersbach said: "For the whole time we felt there was a close friendship with everybody. It is a true and honest feeling. We thought about what would be the right way to say this and chose to put our message in a famous newspaper."

He added that anti-German press coverage, particularly stories in the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Star* that compared the semi-final clash between England and his team with the Second World War, had not reflected

the true feeling of the English people towards the German team. "Those papers got it wrong. It was laughable and ridiculous. We never really discussed it. Maybe people in Germany thought there was a bad atmosphere, but there wasn't," he said.

Stephen Double, a spokesman for the Football Association, said he was delighted that the German team had decided to judge their stay in England by the reaction of the general public and not by "a few ill-considered headlines."

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Still dull voice of calm damns devolution

LIFE in the Palace of Westminster is a weird mixture of the useful and the ceremonial. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, probably imagined that yesterday's highlight would be the Prime Minister's announcement that the Stone of Destiny is to be returned from Westminster Abbey to Scotland.

But the news was greeted with hilarity. The most memorable reaction was a suggestion from Dr John Reid (Lab, Motherwell N) that a fair swap would be to take the stone to Edinburgh from its present site under a chair at Westminster Abbey, and bring the Secretary of State from Edinburgh to a site under a chair at Westminster

Abbey. Still, it was Forsyth's ceremonial victory over the stone which will occupy the media.

There were few journalists present to record a victory of the useful kind, during Scottish Questions, when Forsyth waded coolly into opposition plans for what he called "a pygmy parliament" for Scotland, demolishing their logic and leaving the Labour benches gasping. These things are hardly recorded.

That same contrast between the ceremonial and the useful emerged as I listened to two speeches in the Lords debate on the constitution: that of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and that of Lord Campbell of Croy. Roy Jenkins made the "bet-



ter" speech, of course: two memorable quotes were lovingly unwrapped — "the one thing worse than to be Mr Balfour's poodle is to be John Major's poodle" and (of absent peers) "they also serve who only stay away" — as Lord Jenkins rolled the tongue and gargled his way through much historical allusion and many delicate reminders of the depth of his learning and the breadth of his experience. But in the end he said nothing. Nothing except (I suppose) that if a lot of people

want something then they had better have it. Jenkins mentioned the West Lothian Question, to which he thought there was "no satisfactory answer" — as though it is enough to say there is no answer to a question: as if that was an answer to the question. Lord Jenkins then left, with elaborate apologies, for another engagement.

Lord Campbell made a duller speech. He recalled his time as Scottish Secretary and his early opposition to devolution (as a Tory peer in the

1970s). He explained why the plan had failed the first time round. He explained why the defects which had proved fatal to those plans then could wreck similar plans now. He explained why the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster might have to be reduced from 72 to 39. He explained the logical difficulties which must arise over the framing of Mr Blair's referendum. By the time Lord Campbell sat down, it was impossible to believe that opposition plans were leading anywhere but to confusion.

Between now and some

Reprieve for doomed satellite mission

Scientists who lost ten years' work in the crash of the Ariane 5 launcher last month have been given approval to build a new satellite from spares to replace the four lost in the disaster. The decision by the European Space Agency will keep the scientific teams together while a decision is made on whether the entire mission can be rescued. Scientists are testing the remains of the four destroyed satellites discovered in swamps in French Guiana and hope that some of the electronics can be reused. The Cluster satellites were designed to fly through the Earth's magnetic field and measure it in three dimensions. Although one satellite alone could not do this, it would still produce useful scientific results.

Wraps off spaceship, page 14

Second Tube strike

The second one-day strike within a week by Tube drivers in London reduced services to about a third of their normal level and completely closed the Circle and Hammersmith and City lines. London Transport claimed it had been able to run slightly more trains in the morning rush hour than in last Thursday's action. Commuters face more strikes next Monday and on July 16.

The disruption is likely to be stepped up if Tube workers in the Rail Maritime and Transport union also vote to strike.

Major anguish over IRA

John Major disclosed for the first time yesterday the deep personal anguish he felt when the IRA ceasefire was ended by the Docklands bomb. "I could have wept when it [the peace process] began to be stalled. The return to violence was certainly a considerable setback, there can be no doubt about that," he told Classic FM radio. He was at a loss to understand why the IRA felt a resumption of terrorism was justified when major changes had been taking place in Northern Ireland.

BA pilots vote to strike

British Airways offered an extra nine per cent to the basic pay of hundreds of its lowest paid pilots last night in an attempt to avert a strike which threatens to wreck tens of thousands of summer holidays. The move came after the airline's 3,000 pilots and flight engineers voted by a margin of 90 per cent in favour of strike action. A decision on when to strike will be delayed while further talks take place with Balpa, the pilots' union. Without a deal, the airline could be grounded from the end of the month.

Swimming coaches

Police are to take no action over indecent assault allegations made against the senior national diving coach, Mike Edge, who has coached the British teams for the last four Olympics, was arrested and questioned in April in connection with inquiries dating back to the 1980s. Lindsey Fraser, the junior national coach, was arrested on the same day and interviewed by members of the child protection unit. Police are taking no action against Mr Edge, 45, or Ms Fraser, 34, who both denied the allegations.

£21m aid for manchester

A rescue package of more than £21 million to begin the rebuilding of bomb-damaged Manchester city centre was announced yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. The package will include £20 million of reallocated EU funds and £1 million to help to prepare a master plan for redevelopment. The announcement came after a week of discussions with civic and business leaders, which included owners of the buildings worst hit by the IRA blast. They include Marks & Spencer and P & O.

Water rule complaint

Britain is to be taken to the European Court of Justice over the way it controls drinking water standards. The European Commission has agreed to a complaint by Friends of the Earth, which says that the system of undertakings on water pollutants to companies issued by the Drinking Water Inspectorate robbed members of the public of the right to taking companies to court for breaches in tap water standards.

Redundancy offered to 2,000 CPS lawyers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY all the 2,000 prosecutors of the Crown Prosecution Service and about 1,000 senior administrative staff have been invited to apply for voluntary redundancy. A service spokesman said that only a small take-up was expected.

The initiative is part of a savings programme that the service, like other Government departments, has drawn up. The spokesman said that letters went out this week to 1,900 Crown prosecutors and to senior legal assistants and senior executive officers.

She said: "We have only got a limited number of voluntary early retirement schemes but we thought it right to make the invitation widely and to see how many people wished to take it up." She emphasised that they did not "envisage any compulsory redundancies", adding "certainly none are planned".

The service's budget for 1996-97 is £288 million, a cut of £8 million on the current year. Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said yesterday that the cut was a challenge. But she hoped the savings would be achieved by voluntary redundancies, although she could not absolutely rule out compulsory redundancies.

There were ways of making savings without cutting into the service's core functions of case preparation and presentation, she added. But the Criminal Bar Association has given a warning that cuts will worsen the quality of the service offered. Anne Rafferty,

QC, chairman of the association, said: "There is a great deal of anxiety among competent practitioners that the CPS are not behind them in court as often as they should be and at the level they should be." There was even more serious concern about the "level of competent back-up and sensible advice" given to counsel who were preparing cases.

A third problem was the arrangements by which particular sets of chambers were linked with specific prosecuting areas "which could be 40 miles away and where they have no relationship or rapport with the CPS". The £8 million cuts could only make matters worse, she added.

A former Royal Navy serviceman yesterday won permission for a legal challenge against a decision to discharge him from the Armed Forces because he was gay.

Mr Justice Sedley ruled that Terence Perkins, 27, of Nottingham, had an arguable case for judicial review that the Defence Ministry ban on homosexuals was contrary to European equal treatment laws.

The case reopened the controversy over whether gays can lawfully be barred from the military and is likely to be referred to the European Court of Justice.

The House of Lords recently upheld the MoD's right to enforce the ban and the Commons accepted an Armed Forces Select Committee recommendation that the policy should not be scrapped.



Valerie Eliot: what her husband would have wanted

T.S. Eliot's widow aids casket appeal

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE widow of T.S. Eliot has been so moved by attempts to save the Thomas & Becket casket for the nation, she is donating £50,000 towards the appeal.

Valerie Eliot's pledge, through the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, gives a dramatic boost to the Victoria and Albert Museum's chances of competing at Sotheby's auction today for the 12th-century casket.

Mrs Eliot is noted for her generosity in supporting "causes close to her heart". A casket that depicts Becket's murder and which may have contained one of his bones, a fragment of his clothing or a lock of his hair, had immediate appeal. In 1935, her hus-

band, who died in 1965, wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, inspired by Becket's martyrdom, for a production at Canterbury Cathedral.

David Barrie, the NACF's director, said: "She spoke of being touched by the appeal from the NACF and thought her late husband would have wanted this."

Campaigners are praying that the auction price does not exceed the £15 million which Sotheby's estimates for it. Initially, the V&A was aiming to raise £2.2 million, of which around 75 per cent was promised from the heritage lottery fund. Under lottery rules, the rest should come from "partnership funding".

Letters, page 21

You can back me or sack me, Blair tells party critics

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has responded to attacks on his "autocratic" style of leadership by challenging MPs to back him or sack him. In an interview in this week's *New Statesman*, he makes an outspoken appeal for party loyalty to coincide with today's launch of Labour's manifesto programme.

He says: "If you don't like the leader, get rid of the leader and get someone else in to do the job. But don't elect a leader and not allow him to lead." The message follows renewed party tensions over Mr Blair's decision to change party policy over the Scottish Parliament without consulting MPs or the full Scottish frontbench.

"With a modern Labour party you have to have effective ways of decision-making," Mr Blair says. "Sometimes decisions have to be made quickly, and if you have to go through unhelpful committees it never gets done at all. The last Labour Government suffered from that, and I am not going to have a situation where the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to start going to committees to justify himself when he's got the country's interests to resolve. The counterweight is that the leader can be democratically removed."

In the interview, Mr Blair makes clear that he is against proportional representation and would campaign against it when Labour holds its referendum on PR. He also gave a strong hint that he does not plan to raise the top rate of tax: "I've always said that I am very well aware that large numbers of average income

families now pay the top rate. You have to have a system that rewards and has incentives. You've got to have a system in which people can become wealthy out of earned income."

Earlier, Mr Blair justified his decision to go ahead with the plan for a Scottish referendum without consultation in case it leaked to the press, as he repeated his appeal for loyalty at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

One backbencher argued that loyalty was a two-way process and he should make more efforts to take MPs with him. Mr Blair responded: "We all have to be loyal, one to another in the knowledge that I know you want to win the election and I know that everything I do as leader of the party is dedicated to winning that election."

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, vigorously denied claims that Labour intended to revise its plans to impose a windfall tax on privatised utilities by exempting some companies. Labour's draft manifesto will give a firm commitment to using the resources raised by a windfall levy on a £15 billion scheme to help jobless youngsters and the long-term unemployed get jobs.

Mr Blair will tonight take part in "teleconferences" following the showing of Labour party political broadcasts. Over 2,500 viewers — 750 per channel — will be able to ring a number to pose questions and listen in. The exercise is being financed by British Telecom.

Obscure causes celebrate share of £10m windfall

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SECRETIVE expatriate is to donate nearly £10 million to causes close to her heart, both famous and obscure. The woman, who has no close relatives, decided to give most of her wealth to eight organisations ranging from those working with the sick to one which promotes friendship with Peruvians.

Her gift of £9.7 million is being shared by: the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street; the Royal National Institute for the Blind Fund for Blind Babies; Marie Curie Cancer Care; the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society; the International Spinal Research Trust; the British Association of Hand Therapists; the College of Occupational Therapists; the Friends of Peru.

Some of the larger charities, while grateful, are used to occasional windfalls from wealthy benefactors. But the

smaller ones were amazed when they were contacted by Andrew Young of the private client department of the London solicitors Alsop Wilkinson, who broke the news.

"The hand therapists virtually fell off their chairs," he said. "I know how Anthea Turner must feel."

Mr Young dropped few clues to the Englishwoman's identity. "Like so many of these people who go to live abroad and have superfluous funds and no particular close family, she made arrangements at a certain time of life to make sure the bulk of her wealth goes to particular worthy causes."

The woman appears to have realised several years ago that she had more money than she would need in her own lifetime, possibly due to an inheritance. She established a trust with the working title of the Bolingbroke Foundation,

managed by the Leichtenstein Global Trust in the European principality renowned for its opaque financial services.

The Friends of Peru is based at Worth Abbey in Crawley, West Sussex, and is a Roman Catholic foundation associated with a Downside public school. They look after particular causes in Peru concerned with human rights and so on," Mr Young said.

The hand therapists' association, which was created ten years ago to promote education and understanding between occupational therapists and physiotherapists, has no idea how it will spend the money. Its usual income is £18,000 a year.

"We were absolutely amazed at the size of the bequest," Keith Foster, the general manager, said last night. "I hope perhaps that in the past she may have had help from our services."

Pay dilemma for Major

Continued from page 1

when MPs are next due a rise. Under the proposals, the Leader of the Opposition's pay would go up to £98,000 — compared with Tony Blair's present £66,000. Cabinet ministers would go through the six-figure barrier, up from £69,000 to £103,000. Ministers of state salaries would rise from £56,000 to £74,000. Junior ministers would get £66,000.

Mr Major, interviewed on Classic FM radio, said a new formula had been needed when the "natural link" be-

tween MPs and civil servants' pay was broken. Three hundred MPs from all parties, "predominantly not mine", had signed a Commons motion demanding action, he said, which led to the report.

The proposed increase drew criticism from Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Service Association.

"I am not against MPs and ministers getting the rate for the job. But it is gross double standards if they don't apply the same principles to those they employ," he said on BBC

Radio 4's *The World at One*.

City headhunters say the proposed increases will go some way to redressing the lack of talent at Westminster, even if £140,000 will not buy much more than a finance director for a medium-sized company (Jon Ashworth writes). Miles Broadbent, a leading headhunter, has long argued that MPs' salaries should be doubled or even trebled in order to attract quality.

Peter Riddell, page 11

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Historic symbol could serve as a tourist attraction or the foundation of a Scottish parliament

Scots fight for right to house nation's heart of stone

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE RETURN of the Stone of Scone was welcomed yesterday by Scots of all political persuasions. But the handing back will open up a fierce battle among heritage groups keen to house what will become one of the country's biggest tourist attractions.

Mr Major gave the city of Edinburgh's claim a boost when he suggested in the House of Commons that the stone be returned to Edinburgh Castle, already Scotland's biggest tourist attraction with a million visitors a year. The city's St Giles Cathedral was also named as a potential home.

However, other venues which feel they have a greater claim are already planning to make representations to the Scottish Office.

The Countess of Mansfield, whose family seat of Scone Palace incorporates the ancient coronation site of the Scottish kings, where a replica stone is visited by 100,000 people a year, said: "If this is the Monarch's wish, it will cause intense pleasure in Scotland. The Stone is at the centre of Scotland's pride in her ancient monarchical history. Scone would of course be very honoured to see it back in the ancient crowning place of kings. Wherever it goes, the whole of Scotland will be enchanted by its return."

Professor Thomas Smout, a historian of Scotland, said he welcomed the decision to return the Stone: "It has huge symbolic importance. It is a



The man who "nicked" the stone: Edward I

genuine Dark Age relic which lies at the very heart of the Scottish kingdom. It was revered for centuries before it was nicked by Edward I and the English. It is quite right that it is to return. There is a very strong case for it to be housed at Stirling. Scone Palace is now privately owned and therefore not appropriate. Stirling is right in the centre of Scotland and has associations with William Wallace and Robert the Bruce."

The island of Iona, and Dunadd and Dunstaffnage in Argyllshire, could also lay claim to the stone. Successive Dalriadic kings were crowned on the Stone there

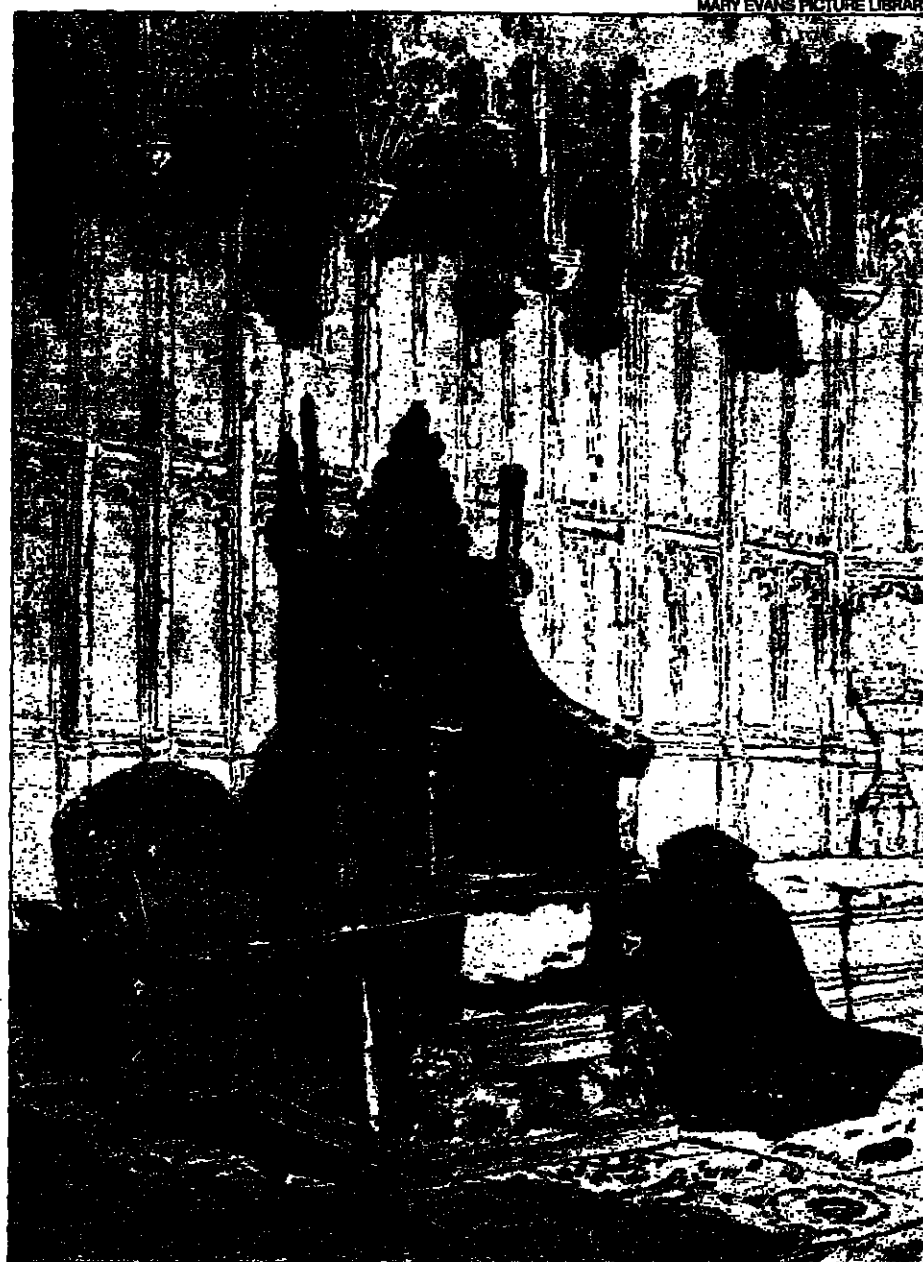
before it was taken by Kenneth MacAlpine to Scone in AD843. The new Museum of Scotland, which is due to open in two years' time in Edinburgh and which will house the Scottish national collection, is also keen to provide a home for the Stone.

The return of the Stone was given a guarded welcome by the Scottish National Party leader Alex Salmond, who said: "The lesson of history is that people are not impressed by gestures. Their ambitions for Scotland go far beyond the return of the Stone of Destiny and the Prime Minister's announcement will simply reinforce the Scottish people's demands for real power and a real Scottish parliament."

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, said: "This announcement is welcome for what it is. But symbols are not what the Scottish people are calling for."

Some still believe the original Stone is already in Scotland. The Rev John Mackay Nimmo, a retired minister from Dundee and a nationalist, said it was in Aberfeldy in Perthshire. He claims it was housed in his church for 17 years until the church fell into disrepair in 1989. At that stage, the Knights Templar bought an abandoned parish church in Dull, three miles from Aberfeldy, to house the Stone. Mr Mackay Nimmo says it still lies there but "if there are two stones, they should both be in Scotland, one in a Scottish parliament."

Yesterday the Scottish Of-



Bravehearts and coronets: the Coronation Chair which houses the Stone

fice dismissed rumours that the Stone of Scone was a fake. A spokesman said tests had been carried out when it was recovered from Arbroath Abbey and returned to Westminster.

In recent years the campaign for the return of the

Stone has been run by Robbie the Pict, an ardent Scots nationalist who is not convinced the Stone in Westminster is the genuine article. That did not stop him offering £250,000 for its return. Announcing the offer in March this year, the Pict said: "There

might even have been a double switch if the monks sold Edward I a dummy in the first place. It's quite amusing if they've had a cess tank lid on ceremonial duty for centuries."

Leading article, page 21

Stringent tests said to prove authenticity

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL Forsyth yesterday rejected claims that the Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey was a fake and promised that the Government would release files showing that it was genuine.

The Scottish Secretary told reporters at Westminster that after the stone was stolen in 1950 and then returned to Westminster Abbey stringent tests were carried out to authenticate it. The files had never been released but the Government would now do so to stave off doubts. "They do indeed show that the authentic stone rests in Westminster Abbey."

In the Commons earlier John McAllion, who resigned from the front bench last week over devolution, said the real stone was already in Scotland. It was hidden in a church in Dundee for some years — although the security forces should note that it had been moved to another place of safety since.

The decision to send back the stone was taken by the Queen, its owner, on the advice of the Prime Minister. But it was clear last night that Mr Forsyth and Mr Major had been the prime forces behind the move.

After Mr Major announced the decision in the Commons both Tony Blair and Sir David Steel, for the Liberal Democrats, strongly welcomed it. Mr Blair said: "The return of the Stone of Destiny is a welcome recognition of how we can celebrate the unity of the United Kingdom whilst believing that we are distinct and proud nations

with differing traditions, histories and cultures."

But some Labour MPs greeted Mr Forsyth with jeers and ironic laughter.

Mr Forsyth said that while Mr Blair's and Sir David's response had been appropriate, "we were appalled by the behaviour of some of the neo-nationalists on the Labour benches who misjudged the mood of Scotland and the mood of the House". Mr Forsyth said that the decision was a "confident act" by a government committed to the Union.

For the Scottish National Party, Margaret Ewing told the House: "While we welcome the return of this symbol of power, we want the realities of power in Scotland. It may have taken this Parliament some 668 years since the Treaty of Northampton to return stolen goods to Scotland, but in actuality the people of Scotland will return to themselves the power of having their own sovereign parliament very soon."

John Major, Labour MP for Cathcart, declared in the Commons: "Those of us who believe in the establishment of a Scottish Parliament in order to ensure a modern democratic state, both within the UK and within Scotland, do not believe that the return of a feudal, medieval symbol of tyranny is any more than a total irrelevance."

Mr Major retorted: "I am not at all sure that you will have spoken for many Scots. I think they will have regarded what you had to say as very churlish."

Dean's shock at Queen's decision

By Stephen Farrell

WESTMINSTER Abbey made no pretence of welcoming yesterday's announcement that the Stone of Scone will return to Scotland. From the Dean, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, to the red-robed security marshals, the mood was one of shock and resignation.

The Dean and Chapter acknowledged the Abbey's historic position of being answerable to Her Majesty, not to the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Bishop of London.

"The Queen is Visitor of Westminster Abbey and therefore we accept her decision," said a statement. "But, as the successors of those Abbots of Westminster and Deans and Chapters who

have been guardians of the stone for so many centuries, we must urge those advising the Queen to take full account of the symbolic and emotional significance of the stone, its integral connection with the Coronation Chair made in 1301 to contain it, and its intimate association with the sacrament of coronation.

"The stone should not be regarded as a secular museum piece and its religious associations should be respected in decisions about its future location."

The Abbey's authorities and other staff declined to comment further. One clergyman, polishing silver candlesticks next to the stone in the Chapel of St Edward the Confessor, said: "It's come as quite a shock. I have to say."

The Stone of Scone rests under the Coronation Chair in the chapel. For coronations it is moved the other side of a partition to the High Altar in the Abbey's main area.

Since it was stolen on Christmas Day, 1950, security has been tightened. It is now surrounded by black railings and wired to touch sensors.

These trigger alarms built into walkie-talkies carried by 15 marshals and yard heads.

"It's not much to look at, it's hardly worth fighting over," said one marshal yesterday. "There's not a great demand for it with the tourists. Most of them don't even know what it is, apart from a few English and Scots, but it is symbolic. It will pacify them giving it back, I suppose, but why pacify them?"

The only people in the Abbey to welcome its return to Scotland were a coach party of tourists from Florida who were told the news by *The Times*. Although they learnt of the stone's existence from their tour guide only minutes before, they fervently supported the move.

"No kidding. That's wonderful. I have Scots blood and I think it's great," said Rebekah Snead, 39, from St Augustine, Florida in Britain on a two-week holiday.

Tim Lowell, 30, a salesman from Vero Beach, Florida, said he had no Scots blood but boasted Irish ancestry. "My wife and I believe it should be returned to Scotland. It's their property. It's where their kings and queens were coronated [sic]."

Unsolved riddle of the real relic

By Gillian Bowditch

THE campaign to have the Stone of Scone returned to Scotland has been led by a number of nationalists over the years, but only a handful know whether the stone currently sitting under the Coronation Throne at Westminster Abbey is the genuine relic seized by Edward I, Hammer of the Scots, 700 years ago.

The man at the centre of the plot to recover the stone from Westminster Abbey on Christmas morning 1950 has always maintained that the stone he stole was the one which was returned to Westminster. Ian Hamilton, QC, 71, said: "The stone that came from Westminster was the one that went back." The



The Stone is recovered from Arbroath Abbey

others involved in the plot have been more equivocal and the myth that a fake stone was returned to West-

Matheson, 67, said: "There were certainly copies made but none of the four of us has ever talked as to whether it was the original or a replica which was returned."

Miss Matheson, with barely enough money for petrol, drove the stone from Westminster Abbey to Scotland in a borrowed Ford Anglia. "I had to lie low for a while in Scarborough because of the police road blocks on the Border," she said.

The stone was broken during the raid and was repaired in a Glasgow builder's yard by Bertie Gray, who hinted before he died that it was a replica that was returned to Westminster four months later after the gang left it on the ruined high altar of Arbroath Abbey.

Mr. David Shaw of Blackburn

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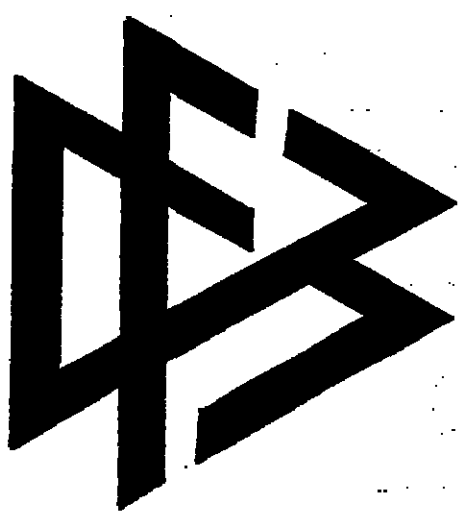
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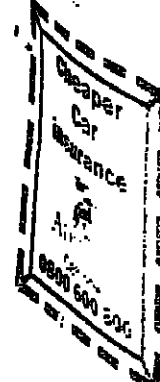
Father in 30

By Dave ...

[illegible]

Convicts held after major disappearances

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By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

Adam Canadine, the develop-

Brian Palfreyman, 67, a retired British Rail steam-train fireman who works as a volunteer driver for the trust.

The service means that train enthusiasts can hold all the great rites of life — including their weddings, honeymoons and burials — within spotting distance of a railway line.

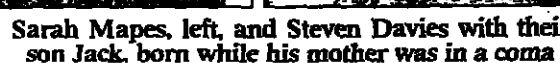


By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

The bereaved and some survivors spent more than an hour with the Princess at Kensington Palace. Asked by John

Crozier, whose daughter Emma died in the attack, if she thought the call for a ban would be successful, the Princess replied: "I certainly hope so." Mr Crozier, his wife Alison and Jack, his three-year-old son, were in London to hand in a petition with more than 700,000 signatures to the House of Commons. It calls for all firearms used in sporting clubs to be stored with their firing mechanisms

The petition was accepted by an all-party group of MPs, including Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and his Labour Shadow, Jack Straw. Mr Straw said: "This time there is a real determination to change gun controls."



By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT


"I am not saying I ever want to give him up or feel any spite towards him, but I just know what his mum went through and that is something no one should have to experience. I wanted Sarah and the unborn baby to be allowed to die naturally, with dignity, and I feel my wishes were ignored. I asked doctors to switch off the machine keeping them both

Mr and Mrs Mapes were refused legal aid to fight for custody of the baby.


Peter Campion, for Southampton General Hospital, said: "Because Sarah was not married her legal guardians were her parents and we followed their wishes."

BY LIN JENKINS


Major Nichols, who joined the Army in August 1967 and is two years away from retirement, is in the Educational and Training Services branch of the Adjutant-General's Corps, based at the Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.



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Prisoner turned President prepares for triumphant address from the balcony of South Africa House



Palace appointment: Nelson Mandela talking about his visit in Johannesburg

Hero's welcome awaits Mandela in Brixton and at the Palace

By ALAN HAMILTON

A WALKABOUT in Brixton will be the highlight of Nelson Mandela's state visit next week. The programme arranged by Buckingham Palace and Downing Street throws convention to the winds.

Accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the 78-year-old president will be greeted on the streets of London's most famous ethnic area by 400 schoolchildren, dancers and musicians. Large crowds of residents are expected to be anxious to see one of the most charismatic statesmen of the age on the last day of his visit, on Friday next week.

Foreign dignitaries rarely

attract more than a passing glance from Londoners, unless they are a Pope or a Gorbachev. President Clinton was barely noticed as he passed through last November. But Mr Mandela is likely to draw an enormous throng as he walks across Trafalgar Square to South Africa House, once the scene of demonstrations demanding his release from prison. He plans to make a balcony appearance.

When the South African president Mr Mandela arrives on Tuesday, he will be welcomed by the Queen and the Prince of Wales and driven in a carriage procession to Buckingham Palace. That evening he will attend a banquet in the Palace ballroom with the

Queen and other members of the royal family.

There are the conventions of a state visit end. So many universities want to confer honorary degrees that a special open-air reception is being arranged in the Palace gardens. The president will receive doctorates from Oxford, Cambridge, London, Bristol, Nottingham, Warwick, de Montfort and Glasgow Caledonian.

Mr Mandela will host a return lunch for the Queen at the Dorchester. The custom of a return state banquet given by the visitor has been abandoned in favour of a rock concert at the Royal Albert Hall to raise funds for projects run by the Prince's Trust in

South Africa. Billed as a celebration of British and South African music, the stars include Britain's Phil Collins, the Americans Quincy Jones and Tony Bennett, and a group of South African performers led by the jazz musician Hugh Masekela. The concert is already a sell-out.

It was already known that the president will address both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall. Other heads of state, including King Juan Carlos of Spain and President Chirac of France, have given addresses to Parliament, but not since President de Gaulle in 1960 has any done so in the most historic remnant of the Palace of Westminster.

During his four-day visit

Mr Mandela will follow the convention of other heads of state and stay in the Belgian Suite at Buckingham Palace. The fact that he will be accompanied by his daughter, Princess Zenani, will pose no problems: the suite has two main bedrooms, linked by a common sitting room.

Mr Mandela's visit follows a state visit by the Queen to South Africa last year, which celebrated South Africa's return to democracy and the Commonwealth. It also commemorated the visit by the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947, when she celebrated her 21st birthday, and recognised the her high personal regard for the first head of a democratic South Africa.

'Country boy' who really means business

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA spoke enthusiastically about his first official visit to Britain next week and gave notice that it should live up to its lively and unusual billing.

Mr Mandela, speaking at his home in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, appeared delighted by the prospect of staying in a sumptuous suite at Buckingham Palace and taking his customary pre-dawn strolls in the palace gardens. Laughing, he said:

"The Queen is a very gracious lady and I'm sure she'll put a country boy at ease. I'm sure Her Majesty is aware that because as a young boxer and in prison — where we had to wake up at a particular time, about 5am — that is now inbuilt in me and I'm sure Her Majesty will be good enough not to worry if I wake up so early and wander around the gardens."

Mr Mandela fondly remembered the support of the British public during the struggle against apartheid and said his visit would be an opportunity to give thanks: "Even in

colonial days, the best place to run to from the British settlers was Britain."

Mr Mandela will be accompanied by a large delegation, including cabinet ministers and businessmen, on a trip aimed at reaffirming cultural ties and strengthening economic links. With between £11 and £12 billion of investment, he said Britain had returned to its pre-sanctions status as the biggest investor in South Africa, and indicated that increased trade and investment would top his agenda with the Government and the CBI. He also expected British support for South

Africa in talks on a free-trade agreement with the European Union.

Mr Mandela said he would be highlighting economic successes, reversing the flow of capital out of the country, reducing inflation to single figures and boosting growth. He was aware of negative impressions about South Africa because of crime levels, but was insistent that his Government was on top of the problem. Mr Mandela tipped around the issue of the ANC's cosy relationship with the powerful trade unions, but the subject is certain to be raised during his visit.

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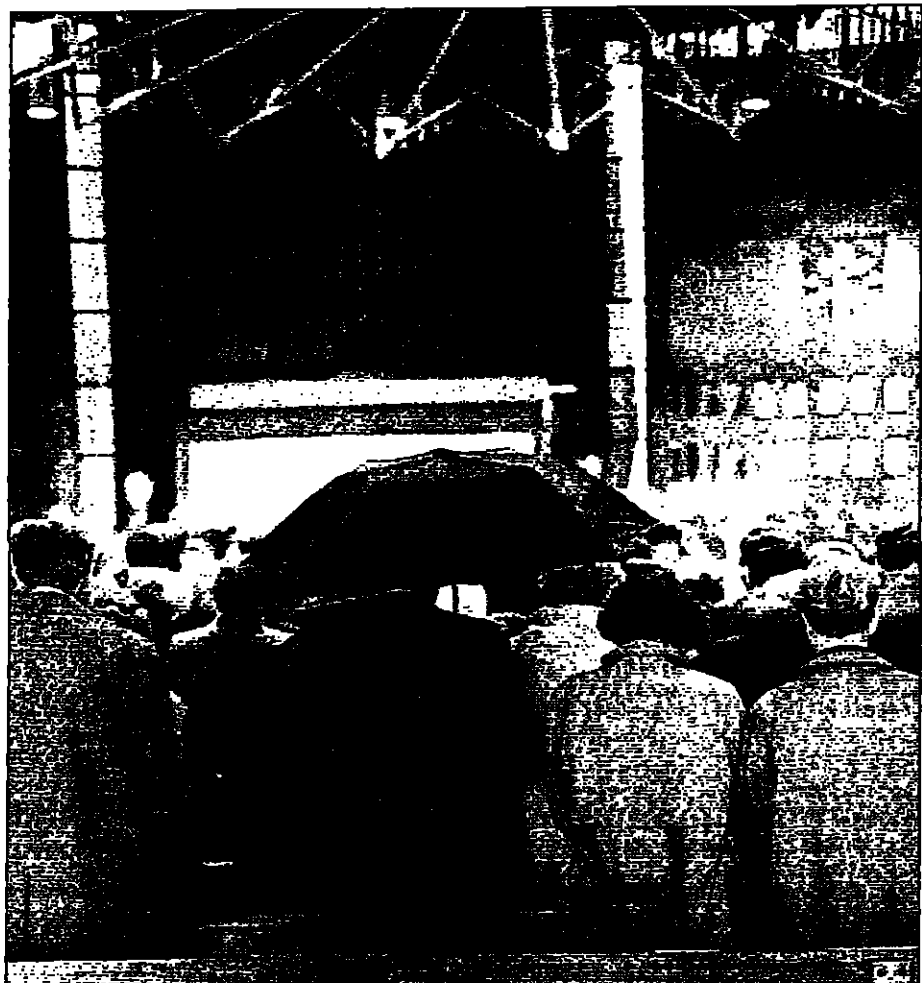
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Rain over us: an umbrella goes up during the enthronement yesterday

Heavens open as primate is installed

THE new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Patrick Kelly, was enthroned yesterday in a ceremony rich in pageantry and unexpected indignity as the roof of the troubled cathedral nicknamed Paddy's Wigwam began to leak.

Rainwater poured down from the cone-shaped canopy and some of the 2,200-strong congregation had to open umbrellas. Parish representatives were among those who were soaked inside the concrete-built Cathedral of Christ the King.

The cathedral is undergoing a multimillion-pound refurbishment, partly paid by English Heritage, that will replace the aluminium roof. Sheila Kirkham said: "It was shocking. From the very outset we were getting completely drenched. There was no alternative but to put up an umbrella. It must have looked a peculiar sight."

As the ceremony progressed, staff armed with mops and buckets soaked up



Kelly: unity pledge

puddles of water collecting on the marble floor. A spokesman for the Archbishop said: "We have had problems with the roof for years. Work is in progress on the building and we will be getting it fixed."

Archbishop Kelly, formerly Bishop of Salford, said he would be continuing the work for church unity of the late Archbishop Derek Worlock and the Right Rev David Sheppard, the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool.

"My mother was a member of the Church of England and half of my relatives, many of whom are here today, are Anglican. So I will be continuing the ecumenical work begun here before me," he said.

New army training aims to make couch potatoes fighting fit

By ADRIAN LEE

THE Army has banned new recruits from working out in their spare time and the vaulting horse will disappear from the gym as commanders try to cut training injuries.

Army chiefs are alarmed by the number of young men and women, less fit than their parents' generation, who are hurting themselves when forced to exercise vigorously.

Recruits raised in the television and computer age are also to be allowed to recuperate at home from injuries, get more time to eat meals and undergo muscle development work to bring them up to scratch.

The rethink on training and recruitment will also see physical training forbidden before and after parade-ground drill. Applicants who fail entrance fitness tests will be given a second chance to prove themselves. This should cut numbers dropping out of training.

Teenage recruits will receive better welfare support which

recognises that they are often chronically homesick, missing family, friends and even pets.

Studies by the Army found that recruits, not used to exertion, were pushing themselves too hard, often in their spare time, to try to measure up. Many were "too enthusiastic" on the vaulting horse in gyms and were also suffering injuries during displays when they were trying to show off to parents.

A pilot scheme at the Glenrose Army Training Regiment base, near Edinburgh, has shown that recruits who failed army entrance fitness tests quickly caught up after just three weeks' extra training.

The Army denied yesterday that the changes would lead to a fall in standards. It said thousands of highly motivated young men and women would now have the opportunity to enter the service. This year alone, of 21,000 applicants, almost 3,000 were turned

away because their fitness was borderline.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Quicke, commanding officer of the Army Training Regiment, said: "Their background and lifestyle give them the worst possible start to army life. The trainer-wearers, the couch-potatoes, the lack of competitive sports, the lack of any sports, poor diet and an environment where commitment and loyalty to the workplace is becoming less fashionable are all to blame."

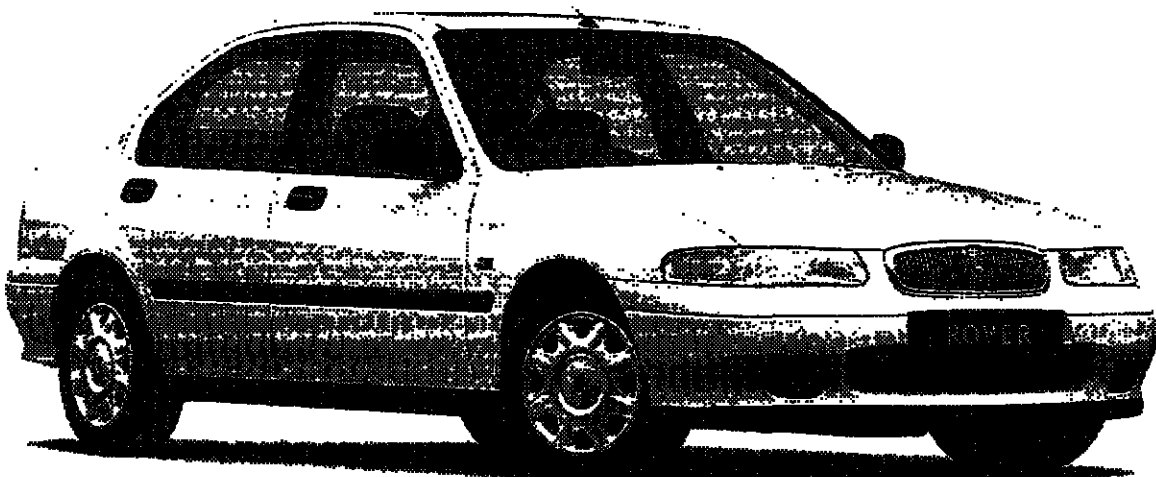
At present, almost one in five applicants fails the fitness tests, part of which require a man to run 1½ miles in 11½ minutes; a woman, in 14½. Of those accepted four out of ten do not complete their basic training at the first attempt.

Many suffer injury because their bones are not as strong as those of recruits from previous generations, prompting the Army to consider increasing its current ten-week training period.

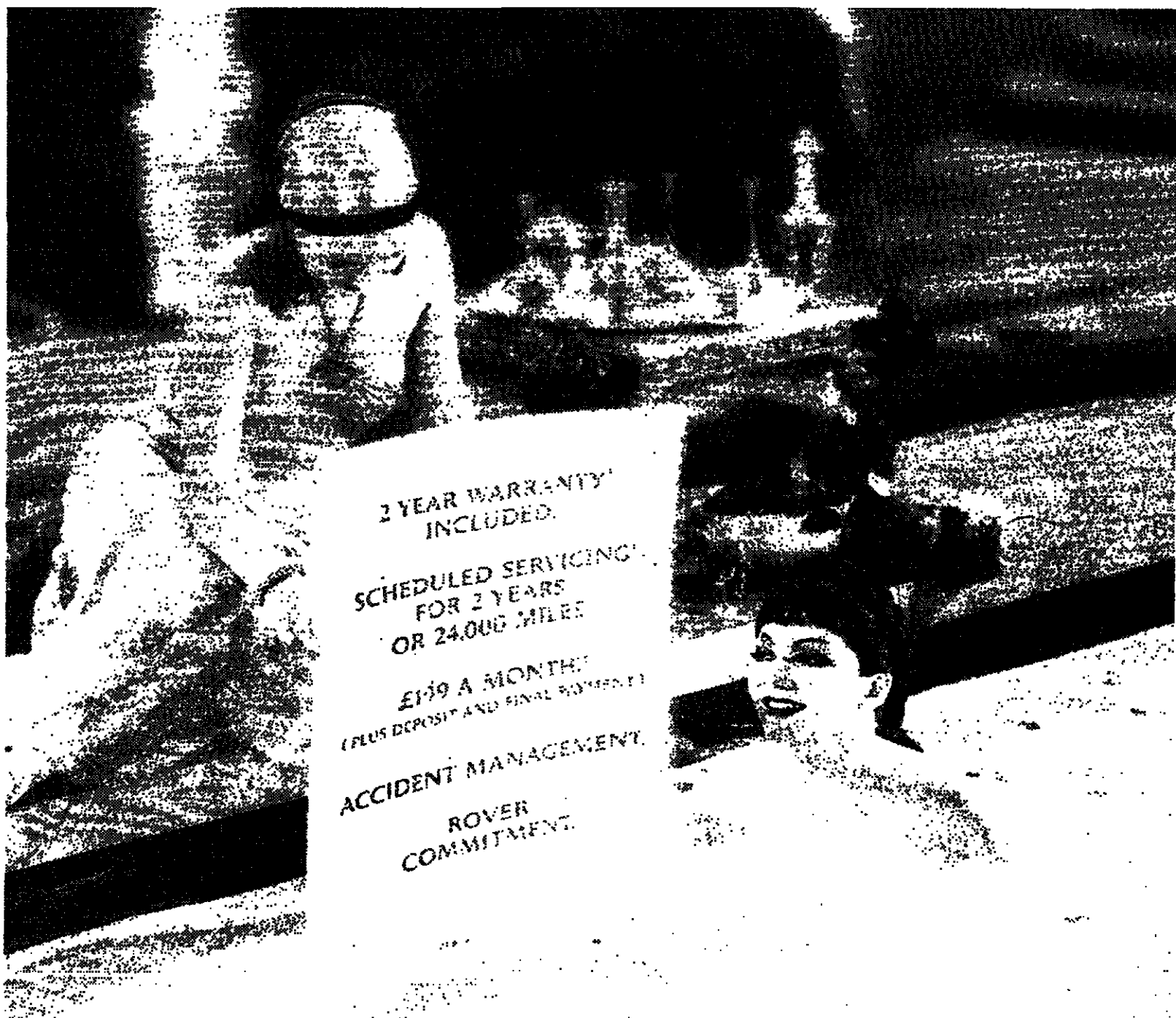
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Henman yesterday in the fast-selling shirt

Henman earns his stripes in sponsor deals

By JOANNA BALE AND CAROL MIDGLEY

TIM HENMAN'S success at Wimbledon has brought an avalanche of sponsorship and endorsement offers that could promote him into the ranks of tennis millionaires.

By reaching the last eight in the tournament, the Oxford solicitor's son is the best British men's player for 23 years. It has earned him not only the adoration of tennis fans but also £51,000 in prize-money (£98,000 if he reaches the semi-finals) to add to an estimated £100,000 won during his career.

But it is sponsorship deals and public appearances that could soon make the 21-year-old a multimillionaire like Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. Trocadero plc, which signed up Henman for £25,000 two weeks before Wimbledon started, looks like seeing its investment turn to gold.

The company, featured on the left sleeve of Henman's tennis shirt, struck the deal after the chief executive's wife, Maxine Leslau, mentioned that she thought he was handsome. The value of the company's property has at least quadrupled and it has promised him £1 million if he wins the title.

Although Henman is not yet in the same sponsorship league as Linnor Christie, who is paid £500,000 a year by Puma alone, his marketability is expected to earn him £1 million from a tennis racquet manufacturer, £1 million from his current sportswear sponsor Adidas, £250,000 from media work and a similar sum from personal appearances.

Such is his newfound appeal, Adidas has e-mailed depots in France, Germany and America for fresh supplies of the three-striped Promo Polo shirt worn by Henman, after running out three months early.

Henman has signed a contract with the International Management Group, which represents some of the world's leading names in sport. The company is owned by Mark

McCormack, a 65-year-old American whose worldwide business interests are estimated to yield more than £600 million a year. IMG takes an average 10 per cent of prize-money and 25 per cent of everything else that a player earns, such as merchandising and sponsorship deals.

Henman, who joined IMG last year, has become so enmeshed in its culture of corporate nannying that he shares his two-bedroom flat in Chiswick, west London, with an IMG executive, Caroline Herbert — described as a platonic friend — and his most recent former girlfriend is said to have worked for the company.

Miss Herbert declined to discuss how she came to be sharing a flat with Henman, who recently moved out of his parents' large Oxfordshire home. The precise nature of his business relationship with IMG remains a secret too. She said: "IMG contracts vary, so we cannot tell you what percentage we take from Tim's earnings, but all his business affairs are controlled in-house. He has no need for outside accountants."

Henman and his family have declined dozens of requests for media interviews. Jan Felgate, Henman's IMG press spokeswoman, said: "We control all his press and TV interviews and decide what is relevant."

Midland Bank signed a five-figure, three-year deal with Henman two months ago. He must wear its logo on his tennis shirt and make appearances to promote the bank's long-standing schools tennis scheme.

Adidas signed Henman in 1992 when he was spotted by Caroline Billingham, its UK marketing manager and a top-ten British player in the 1980s. He is paid a fixed retainer plus performance-related bonuses in return for promotional appearances and wearing Adidas clothing.

Candida Crewe, page 19
Wimbledon, pages 45, 46

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Men who had previously escaped public scrutiny are being photographed and named in the press

Journalist's murder lifts lid on Irish underworld

By NICHOLAS WATT,
AUDREY MAGEE AND
GRAHAM DUFFILL

A WEEK after the murder of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, police in Dublin have still to make an arrest. The killing of the young mother in broad daylight has caused public outrage and accusations that ministers and the police are failing to contain a crime wave.

Yesterday, an MP who has campaigned against drug dealers was placed under armed police protection after a threatening telephone call to her home. Roisin Shortall, the Labour member for Dublin North-West, had earlier received a message on her office answering machine that included the sound of gunshots.

It is commonly believed that the shooting of Ms Guerin, carried out with ruthless efficiency, was ordered by one of Dublin's underworld leaders.

The award-winning *Sunday Independent* crime correspondent had received a blunt warning one night in January last year when a hooded gunman shot her in the leg. As soon as she was out of hospital Ms Guerin, 36, had her husband Graham Turley drive her round to the homes of the main suspects to show she was not afraid.

For the past seven days, a team of 60 detectives has attempted the daunting task of trying to break the republic's highly active criminal gangs. There are thought to be 10 to 12



John Gilligan, left, admits he is the main suspect in the murder of Veronica Guerin, seen with her son Cathal. John Traynor, right, won an injunction to stop an article by her



THE GARDA

SENIOR Scotland Yard officers praise the Garda Síochána's work against the IRA but believe the force must modernise to beat the drug traffickers suspected of murdering Veronica Guerin.

The Garda was created in the 1920s as a small national force for a largely rural country. Today it is torn between the traditional role of policing the vast, thinly populated country areas and the urban problems of Dublin which have grown rapidly in ten years.

Critics say the force is clannish and slow to change, that commanders are hampered by political and bureaucratic pressures from the Department of Justice. New equipment has been acquired, but the force is still underfunded and undertrained by northern European standards.

One Yard officer who worked with the Garda on drug investigations said: "There has been a bit of ostrich-head-in-the-sand stuff about the rise of drugs, saying it is not happening here."

The force has 10,700 officers, many more than equivalent English forces, given the population and crime rate.

of them with 500 members. The further the police investigation goes, the more complex their lines of inquiry become.

One convicted criminal, John Gilligan, who has been in Amsterdam on business since the day before the shooting, has admitted he is the main suspect in the eyes of the police because he is facing charges, which he denies, of assaulting Ms Guerin last year. Her evidence could have sent him to jail. However, he argues that that very association would rule him out of

doing something so obvious as having her killed.

A second man, John Traynor, successfully won an injunction on Tuesday preventing the *Sunday Independent* from publishing one of Ms Guerin's last articles because he said it would portray him as a drug dealer.

A third man, who has no significant criminal convictions, Gerry Hutch, was visited at home by police within minutes of the shooting. He knew and had been interviewed by Ms Guerin, but had

been seen elsewhere in the centre of Dublin shortly before the murder.

An MP who has campaigned against drug dealers named two Dublin men in the Irish Parliament last month. Tommy Mullen, dubbed "The Boxer", and George Mitchell, known as both "The Penguin" and "The Walrus", were accused of being two of Ireland's wealthiest drug barons.

Tony Gregory, independent MP for Dublin Central, told the Dail sub-committee on drugs: "The Boxer, a Mr

Mullen, has set up a business in London to operate from there in recent weeks. The Penguin, named as a Mr Mitchell ... has gone to Amsterdam."

Mr Mitchell is believed still to be in Amsterdam. The MP named the two men to show that he felt they were able to operate beyond the reach of the law.

Mr Gregory's intervention prompted Ms Guerin to track down Mr Mullen in Dublin for one of her last reports, published on June 16. Ms Guerin wrote that Mr Mullen,

25, was very nervous because his naming in the Dail made him fearful that IRA vigilantes would kill him.

She said that the young millionaire drove a smart car and protected his home with security cameras. When asked how he had accumulated such a large sum of money, he replied that he had worked in England from the age of 15 and had been left money by his grandfather. He denied dealing in drugs.

In death, Ms Guerin, 36, has ensured that men who

had previously escaped public scrutiny are being photographed and named in the press. The Government has also been galvanised into action and has introduced a crime package aimed at the drug gangs.

Despite the Government's swift response, the public is impatient for results. When Nora Owen, the Justice Minister, admitted within 24 hours of Ms Guerin's murder that her killer would probably never be caught, there were calls for her resignation.

MEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Convicted burglar denies assault

JOHN GILLIGAN, dubbed the "Warehouse Man" for robbing warehouses in Dublin in the 1980s, is due in court next week to face charges of attacking Ms Guerin.

Mr Gilligan, 44, who has a string of criminal convictions ranging from common assault to aggravated burglary, is alleged to have beaten Ms Guerin when she called at his large country estate last September to question him about his wealth.

He lives in some splendour with his wife Geraldine and two children on a sprawling estate at Enfield in the picturesque Co Kildare countryside close to Dublin. He also retains a more modest council house in Dublin.

Ms Guerin drove out to his house after he failed to reply to a letter she had sent him a week earlier. In a statement to police, Ms Guerin alleged that Mr Gilligan struck her about the face and head with his fists and threatened to kill her and her family.

She said in her statement: "I am fearful for my life and for the safety of my family. I believe that the threats made to me by John Gilligan were meant to put me in fear in relation to my personal safety and that of the members of my family."

This week, Mr Gilligan strenuously denied assaulting or shooting Ms Guerin. Of the murder, Mr Gilligan said: "I'm sick. I'm gutted. What can I do? That [suggestion of involvement] is ludicrous."

Quiet Dubliner who was 'fond' of Guerin

POLICE called at the Dublin home of Gerry Hutch within minutes of Veronica Guerin's murder last week. He was there to receive them and expressed sadness at her death.

Senior police sources say he was genuinely fond of Ms Guerin, who interviewed him on numerous occasions. She said last April she was convinced that he had no involvement in the 1995 shooting.

Mr Hutch is the second youngest of five brothers and has convictions for crimes committed as a teenager. Unlike others questioned by police over Ms Guerin's death, he has no recent convictions for major crimes.

The 33-year-old father of five lives in Clontarf, north Dublin, in a modest house he bought two years ago for £100,000. He sends his children to fee-paying schools on the south side of

'It's not in my nature for this to happen'

JOHN TRAYNOR won an injunction on Tuesday preventing the *Sunday Independent* from running the article Veronica Guerin was working on when she was killed. The court was told it would claim he was a major drug dealer.

Mr Traynor, 48, lives in a modest suburban house in south Dublin with his wife Lisa and four children. He was first convicted at the age of nine for house-breaking. He was last convicted in Ireland in 1977 when he received a five-year jail term for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

He served a further 2½ years of a seven-year sentence in Britain for receiving stolen goods.

He met Ms Guerin regularly to discuss articles she was writing and denies any involvement in her murder. He has not been seen at his home since, forced into hiding by the publicity focused on known criminals. His wife said last night that she had "not a clue" where her husband was.

On Monday night, Mr Traynor called a late-night radio chat show and said he was completely innocent and was being tried by the media.

"I think this is a horrendous killing. I am heartbroken because I knew her so well. I liked her a lot and she liked me. It's not in my nature for this to happen," he told the Chris Barry show on FM104. He also denied any involvement in drugs.

the city. Last week he left for a holiday in Spain.

Mr Hutch is regarded as secretive and quiet, rarely leaving the north inner city. At the time Ms Guerin was murdered, he and two relatives were seen in Buckingham Street in the city centre.

Ms Guerin interviewed him earlier this year. She found him good company — polite, informed on current affairs and possessing a sense of humour. He was adamant that he was not involved in heroin and denied any involvement in serious crime. He said heroin was an evil that had killed many of his friends.

Two years ago he took advantage of a tax amnesty that allowed Irish citizens to bring in money they had accumulated abroad. He lodged a previously undeclared £200,000 with the Revenue Commissioners and paid £30,000 tax on it.

JIM THOUGHT HE WAS ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE ...

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Two-day debate offers Tories chance to launch assault on Labour plans for devolution

Peers clash swords in great battle of the constitution

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

PEERS began a two-day debate yesterday on the fate of the Constitution, with the Tories battling to defend the 700-year-old House of Lords and the status quo in Scotland and Wales.

It was one of the most acrimonious debates the Upper House has seen this Parliament. Tory peers warned Labour that they tinkered with the constitution at their peril and a succession of speakers expressed fears that Britain would revert to a warring island if Edinburgh had its own parliament.

They reminded their colleagues of the great battles between the nations before the Union between Scotland and England. They also predicted that the House of Lords would become "an ermine quango" under Labour's plans to ban hereditary peers.

But Lord Irvine of Lairg, one of Tony Blair's oldest friends, staunchly defended Labour's plans for the constitution, saying they would help to propel the party into power. In his first major speech in the Lords, Lord Irvine, Shadow

Lord Chancellor, said: "The malaise that grips our country stems from disillusion with our system of government. There is an urgent need to return power from the centre back to Scotland, Wales, the regions and the people."

He accused the Prime Minister of "reaching new heights of complacency" with his insistence on acting as the keeper of the constitution. "It was as if our constitution was a jewel so beyond improvement that we have reached the end of history," he said.

"On every great development in the country's constitution there have been those like the Prime Minister who have resisted change on grounds that the time is not ripe, but they have been swept aside by the tide for change."

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who is a Scot, opened the debate with a claim that that Labour's plans were "seriously flawed and risked demolishing the UK for good".

The first day of the debate centred on devolution and a Bill of Rights. More than 50

peers put there names down to speak and the Upper House had its biggest turn out of its 1,100 peers for a debate for years. All the restaurants were fully booked and there were many Scottish and Welsh peers who had not attended the House for years.

Lord Mackay made it clear that the Tories will launch a campaign of obstruction if Mr Blair gets elected and goes ahead with his reforms. Many Tory peers are prepared to tear up the Salisbury convention, under which peers may amend, but not defeat, the manifesto commitments of a newly elected government.

This would delay Mr Blair's plans for at least a year. Lord Mackay said that Britain's influence in the United Nations, the European Union and in Nato would hugely diminish if the United Kingdom became fragmented. Devolution would threaten the livelihoods of those who lived and worked in Scotland and deter those contemplating investing there. Once a Scottish parliament had been established, it would keep "trying to



Queen Anne receiving the 1706 Treaty of Union, which came into force the following year as the Act of Union. The Edinburgh parliament was abolished and Scottish MPs took up 45 seats in the Commons

grab power" until the tension split apart the Union.

Lord Irvine said that the Tories had forgotten that they once called for change. He said the present Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, had written in 1975 of the need for the Tory party to prepare itself "for a future where a Scottish assembly is a permanent feature of political life, as it inevitably will be". He also

quoted Baroness Thatcher as saying in Edinburgh the same year that the establishment of a Scottish assembly was a "top priority to ensure that more decisions are taken in Scotland by Scots".

Tory opposition to devolution for Scotland and Wales did not "square" with the party's advocacy of devolution for Northern Ireland as part of a settlement there. The Gov-

ernment's proposals were an "acknowledgement that the stability of the Union does not depend on precisely symmetrical arrangements for each part of the union".

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat leader in the Lords and former MP for Glasgow Hillhead, also attacked Labour's proposals but warned the Tories against "defying the settled wish of the

majority of Scottish people for change". This had been heightened during the past 17 years of being governed by a "small minority party in Scotland".

Backbench peers on all sides cheered the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland. But they could agree on nothing else.

Lord Campbell of Croy, a former Tory Scottish Secre-

6 Seriously flawed plan risks demolishing the United Kingdom

tary who was in the Lords during Labour's last push for reform, said that Mr Blair would get "bogged down for years" if he tried to reform the constitution. He also predicted that the Scottish nationalists would use any form of devolution as a "half-way" house to full independence. The present constitution should be built on carefully, and should not be turned into a "house of straw".

Lord Merlyn-Rees, a former Labour minister, said: "The tide is flowing towards regional government. We must take steps to harness it."

Lord Thomas of Gwydir, a former Secretary of State for Wales, said that a Welsh assembly with no tax-raising powers would be an "expensive, bureaucratic, political talking-shop with no fiscal autonomy". The proposal would be defeated at a referendum. "There is very little appetite in Wales, particularly among traditional Labour supporters, for any change. They know that the union with England and Westminster serves Wales well."

There will be further acrimony between the parties today when peers debate the future of the House of Lords.

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Goldsmith warns Tories 'to act now'

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY MPs were warned by Sir James Goldsmith yesterday to demonstrate unequivocally their support for a referendum on Britain's future in the European Union or face a candidate from his party at the general election.

Every member of the Cabinet is now almost certain to be opposed by the Referendum Party, which plans to field at least 600 candidates at the election. Conservative Central Office has acknowledged that Sir James has put up to 20 marginal Tory seats at risk.

Sir James said that even if candidates had made the right noises they had to be prepared to show real commitment. At a House of Commons press gallery lunch yesterday, he added: "We will have to have more than just political commitments. We want acts."

The billionaire financier warned the 78 Tory MPs who supported Bill Cash's Referendum Bill last month that was not sufficient to persuade

the Referendum Party to withdraw. "We will judge them on their record and their acts over a long period of time. They have to be solid and not saying or doing something just to keep us off their backs."

Sir James, who will make his first public appearance in Putney this month, where he is challenging David Mellor, reiterated his commitment to fighting for change from within the EU rather than by withdrawal. "Everyone has been lied to systematically. There has been a programme of duplicity which took me in. I voted yes. Our sovereignty has been stolen by stealth by thieves in the night."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister; council structural and boundary change orders; backbench debate on proposed A36 south of Bath; in the Lords: Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) (No. 2) Bill, third reading; second day of debate on the constitution.

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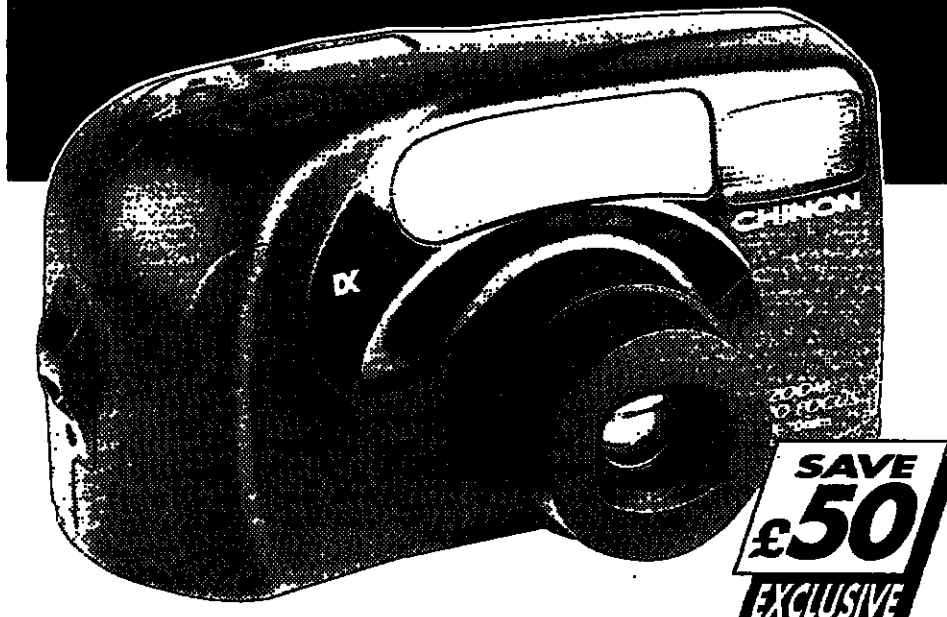
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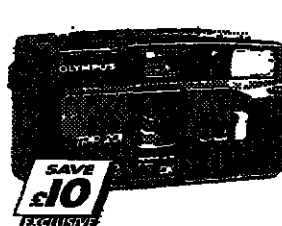
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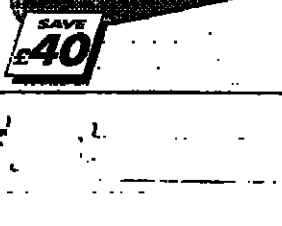
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حکومت الراحل

Review body wants MPs to have pay rises now

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE authors of the report recommending pay rises of between 26 and 72 per cent for MPs and ministers will put heavy pressure on the Government today to accept their proposals in full.

The report will send a strong signal to John Major and Cabinet ministers that a new plan to link future pay rises to Civil Service salaries "will only be effective if salaries are set at the correct level". That is a warning to ministers not to repeat Margaret Thatcher's rejection of an independent report that called for large pay increases in 1983.

In an apparent criticism, the Senior Salaries Review Body says that a sharp pay rise is now needed to make up ground lost because of that decision.

The report's authors underline their concerns about the level of MPs' pay by demanding an immediate increase, while suggesting that minis-

ters and other office holders should wait until after the general election.

The report also says that the Review Body wants to look in more detail at the pay of ministers in the Lords and at the possibility of giving salaries to more members of the Opposition front bench. Further radical changes are mooted with the suggestion that the chairmen of the most important backbench committees should also receive salaries.

In calling for increases of more than 40 per cent for Cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister, the report praises their past "self-imposed restraints" but adds that "additional recognition of the job weight of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers is long overdue".

The £43,000 recommended salary for MPs — an increase of almost £9,000 — should

come into effect immediately, the report says.

The Review Body, chaired by Sir Michael Perry, retiring chairman of Unilever, also seeks to end the practice under which ministers receive less than the full MPs' salary. Ministers receive only £25,660 in addition to their ministerial salary, but the report calls for them to be given the full £43,000 MPs' salary with effect from July 1.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers' salaries should also include the full Parliamentary salary of £43,000 to recognise the fact that their responsibilities as MPs continue unabated.

At present Mr Major receives £58,557 for his duties as Prime Minister but that is topped up to £84,217 with the inclusion of a reduced MPs' salary. Cabinet Ministers receive £43,991 topped up to £69,651, so their pay rise to £103,000 would make them more than £30,000 a year better off.

Ministers of State receive a total package of £56,785, and junior ministers £49,283. So they would have rises of about £20,000 and £15,000.

However, using public sector comparisons, the review body suggests the Prime Minister receive £100,000 on top of his pay as an MP and that Cabinet Ministers receive £60,000 plus their £43,000 "basic" — a pay award that the Speaker would share. The Leader of the Opposition's package would be made up of a £55,000 top-up on the basic.

The review body recommends a curb on MPs' motor mileage allowances, describing the current top rate of 74.1p as "unjustifiably generous" and recommends reducing the level to the 47.2p paid to peers.

To end the annual dispute about MPs voting on their own pay, the report sets out a mechanism for automatic linkage to the average increases in the salaries of the top nine grades of the Civil Service. The issue of MPs' office costs allowances, which most backbenchers claim are inadequate to fund research and secretarial posts, is also addressed. The report recommends an increase of less than £3,000, to £46,363.

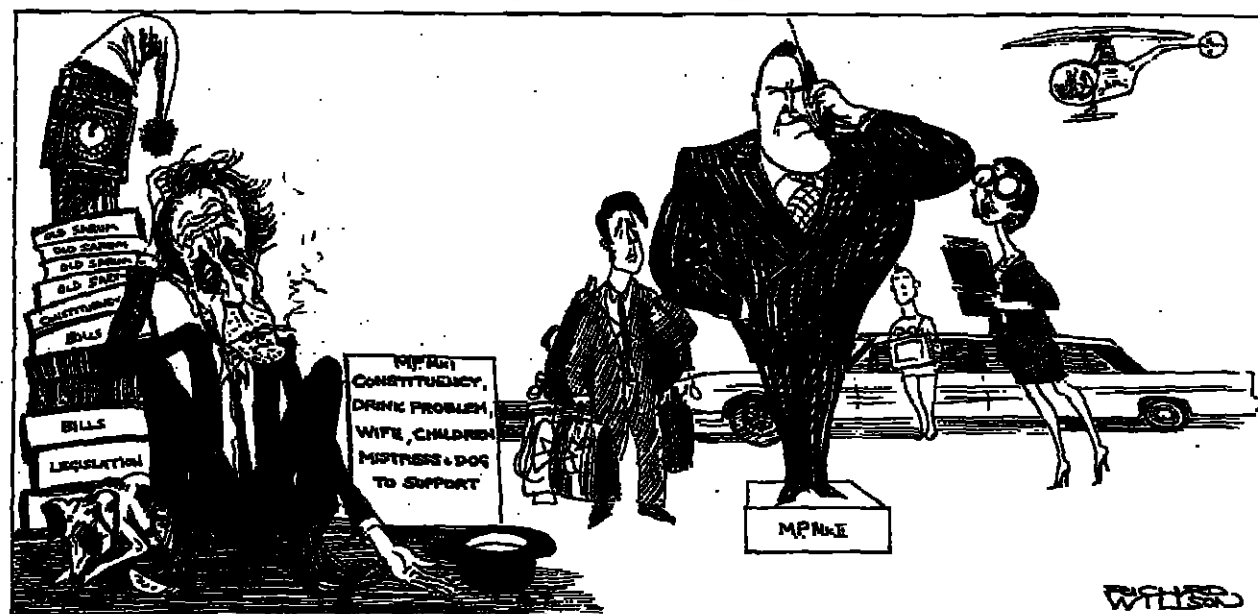
The review body has acknowledged that some MPs, notably those in the inner cities, have heavier caseloads and raises the possibility of further increases in allowances to cover higher staffing and office costs.

A problem that only the politicians can solve

THE Senior Salaries Review Body's recommendation of a substantial pay rise for ministers and backbench MPs should be implemented in full. But it will not be. There will probably be the usual agonising and dodging of responsibility before a messy compromise package is eventually agreed by the Commons later this month. And politicians have only themselves to blame.

There is no easy, or non-controversial, way for MPs to settle their own pay. Comparability exercises of the kind carried out over the past 20 years by the SSRB and similar bodies have provided ample justification for higher pay. It is a nonsense that the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers are paid less than the senior civil servants who advise them, especially since ministers' relative pay has fallen sharply in real terms since the mid-1960s. There is a growing problem of recruitment for quality MPs, and therefore ministers.

But there is really no market rate for politicians. Hardly anyone becomes an MP for the money. But, equally, to regard membership of the Commons as a public service and an honour in itself is hopelessly naive. It would produce a House of wealthy and political obsessives, but



exclude those who expect a reasonable income to support their families.

Anyway, review bodies can only advise and point to comparisons. They cannot decide what MPs get paid. There can be nothing like the remuneration committees that settle the pay of company directors, which often result in a cosy and incestuous ratcheting up of executive pay levels. Not only does the Commons constitutionally have the last word, but MPs

have to take public responsibility and cannot shift that to someone else.

Whatever mechanisms are chosen, the real problem is that MPs lack the confidence to justify themselves and to handle populist and pseudo-egalitarian campaigns by the tabloids. It is not just the low standing of Parliament. MPs are unsure of their own role. This was shown

by the debates over the Nolan report, which underlined the big divisions between MPs over how far they should be full-time or continue to have outside business interests.

More fundamental questions are also at stake about whether the Commons itself needs to be streamlined. There is now a growing consensus among the elder statesmen, ranging from Roy

Jenkins to Douglas Hurd, that the Commons needs to be reduced in size. And the number of ministers needs to be cut as well.

It is a pity that these issues have been viewed separately and that the Nolan inquiry did not have the time to examine pay before their first report. The only way to gain public acceptance for higher pay for backbenchers and ministers and continued outside interests would have been via a package deal

combining restrictions on paid advocacy and a tightening up of expenses (as the SSRB suggests about mileage payments).

It is a classic case where the party leaders should agree a common view, though they will not. Perhaps the answer would be to revert to the practice from the Middle Ages up to the mid-17th century when, as John Biffen notes in his *Inside the House of Commons*, boroughs and shires paid wages to their representatives in the Commons and there was a system of fining MPs who did not attend the House.

Samuel Pepys complained in his diary entry for March 30, 1668: "At dinner all concluded that the bane of Parliament hath been the leaving off the old custom of the places [that is constituencies] allowing wages to those that served them in Parliament, by which they chose men that understood their business and would attend it, and they could expect an account from, which now they cannot." That really would be a market solution, though many MPs might worry what "wages" their constituents would be prepared to pay them.

PETER RIDDELL

WHO WOULD GET WHAT

The recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body include:

	present salary	rev'd salary
Prime Minister	£84,217	£103,000
Cabinet Ministers	£69,651	£103,000
The Speaker	£71,816	£108,000
Cabinet Ministers in the Lords	£57,181	£77,963
Leader of the Opposition	£65,992	£98,000
Ministers of State	£56,785	£74,126
Junior Ministers	£49,283	£66,623
Backbench MPs	£34,066	£43,000
Office allowances	£43,908	£46,363

ters and other office holders should wait until after the general election.

The report also says that the Review Body wants to look in more detail at the pay of ministers in the Lords and at the possibility of giving salaries to more members of the Opposition front bench. Further radical changes are mooted with the suggestion that the chairmen of the most important backbench committees should also receive salaries.

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The £43,000 recommended salary for MPs — an increase of almost £9,000 — should

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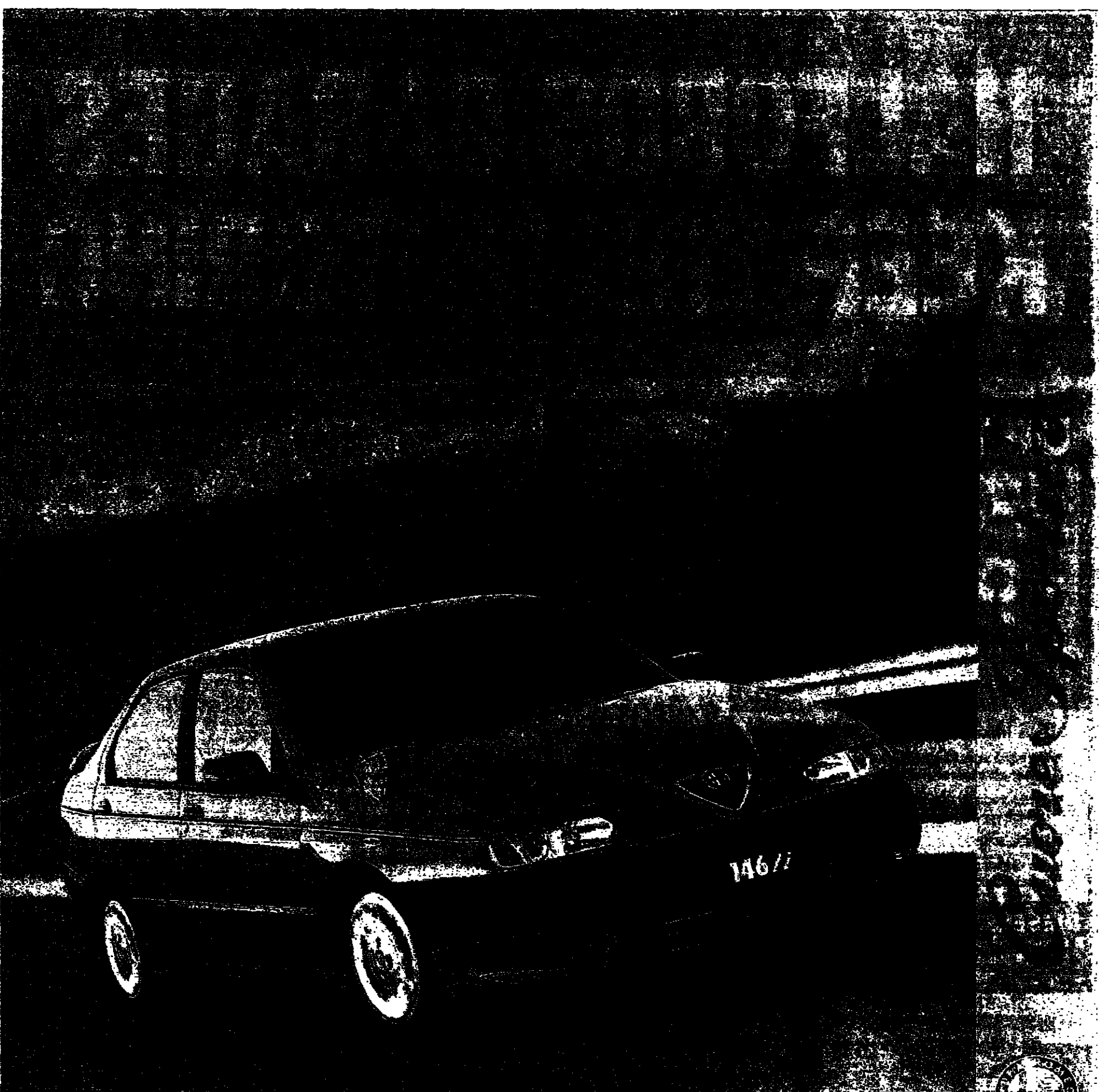
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Alfa 146 2.0	On the Road Price	Deposit	Amount of Cash	Term	End Month's Payment	24 Month's Payments	Final Payment (Sec'd Future Value)	APR %	Interest	Total Amount Payable
1.9 16V 163"	£5,250.75	£1,050.15	£1,050.15	24 months	£210.00**	£2,640.00	£2,640.00**	14.1%	£2,640.00	£18,330.30

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Based on current mileage of 40.0 mpg. The 146 is a 4-door car with a 2.0 litre engine. Prices are for the 146 16V 163" model. **This price and 14.1% APR are based on a 3-year agreement at the beginning of the contract, plus the 14.1% APR and interest on the agreed cash price and a 14.1% APR on the agreed cash price. The 146 16V 163" model is available in the UK. Prices are for the 146 16V 163" model. **This price and 14.1% APR are based on a 3-year agreement at the beginning of the contract, plus the 14.1% APR and interest on the agreed cash price and a 14.1% APR on the agreed cash price. The 146 16V 163" model is available in the UK. Prices are for the 146 16V 163" model. **This price and 14.1% APR are based on a 3-year agreement at the beginning of the contract, plus the 14.1% APR and interest on the agreed cash price and a 14.1% APR on the agreed cash price. The 146 16V 163" model is available in the UK. 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Not to be sneezed at: high price of hay-fever tablets

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

HAY-FEVER sufferers are paying £3.95 for seven tablets that cost a few pence to make, an expert says. As cases of the allergy reach a four-year peak, makers of the leading brands of antihistamine are charging exactly the same for a week's supply.

Drug companies have denied that they are fixing the price and say they have only the short hay-fever season to recoup the costs of research and development. But Joe Collier, who edits *Drug & Therapeutics Bulletin* for the Consumers' Association, said: "The packaging costs more than the drugs." The £42 million-a-year industry "will charge what they feel you as a punter will pay. It is because the public are capable of being duped," he said. The price was just far enough below the £5.50 prescription charge to make it worthwhile for sufferers to buy over the counter.

Melinda Letts, chief executive of the National Asthma Campaign, said: "£3.95 is a lot



The same generic drug used in branded products is sold more cheaply under Boots and Tesco labels

to pay for such a small amount of medication," she said. "Many people cannot afford to pay for such treatment."

This year began badly for antihistamine manufacturers, with sales down 3 per cent until the end of May because there was little tree pollen this spring. Cases soared during June's hot, dry weather, doubling in the last week to the

highest level since 1992. There are an estimated nine million sufferers. Drugs relieve the symptoms of hay fever without curing it. Traditionally, remedies made people sleepy and were dangerous for motorists but the market was revolutionised in the 1980s by the invention of antihistamines which avoided drowsiness. The first were Triludan

Forste and Seldane. Their patent has expired and the same generic drug, terfenadine, is being sold more cheaply by Boots and Tesco under own-brand labels. There is no suggestion that these high-street stores are fixing prices.

Dr Elias Mossialos, an author specialising in pharmaceutical pricing, was surprised the original brands were still £3.95, because there was normally a 60 per cent price cut when medicine patents expire. Brand loyalty allowed makers to keep the price up, he said.

Panos Kanavos, lecturer in health policy at the London School of Economics, said: "In a highly competitive market you need to have the same price, because if you increase the price you are going to reduce your market share. If someone drops the price by 1p the others will have to follow."

Tony Eaton of Hoechst Marion Roussel, the German company that owns the two most popular brands, said the cost of making the pills was a small part of the price. The original manufacturers had to



Motorists benefit from newer antihistamines that do not cause drowsiness

recoup years of investment in research and development.

Once a drug is discovered, a patent is registered and the maker has 20 years to recoup its costs, typically £260 million per product. The first 12 years of the patent are spent testing, leaving eight years for sales—and antihistamines are used

largely only during the six-week hay-fever season.

Wulf Never, general manager of UCB, the Belgian firm that makes the newest popular brand, Zirtek, said the pharmacist's mark-up was 33 per cent. He denied there was an agreement on price between manufacturers. "We are, to be

honest, on the warpath with each other. There is no way we would talk to them." Peter Martin of Schering-Plough, maker of Clarityn, said: "There is certainly no agreement to keep the prices at a particular level."

Pollen forecast, page 24

Britain cheapest country in Europe

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of living in Britain is the lowest in the European Union, according to a league table published today.

ECA International uses expatriate employees in different countries around the world to track the cost of more than 200 goods and services. Among 28 European countries surveyed, Britain this year comes 24th, beaten for cheapness only by Hungary, Poland, Turkey and the Czech Republic.

Within the European Union, Denmark keeps its place as the most expensive country, with goods and services 71 per cent more costly than Britain.

Switzerland emerges as the most expensive country in Europe and is number three out of 108 countries surveyed across the world. It is 87 per cent more costly than Britain, placed 61st in the world, two places lower than a year ago.

Japan is the most expensive country in the world, as it has been for more than five years. It is now reckoned to be 134 per cent more expensive than Britain, despite exchange-rate fluctuations that have reduced Japan's cost of living by 10 per cent in the past year. Hungary and Poland are confirmed as Europe's cheapest countries. Both are more than 12 per cent cheaper than Britain.

The countries which have seen the most rapid change in the past six months are Venezuela and Serbia. Exchange-rate changes made Venezuela plummet 70 places to supplant India at the bottom in the latest figures. Serbia, second most expensive country in the world last December, now ranks 58th and is replaced in second place by Zaire, which has had 300 per cent inflation.

ECA International describes itself as "the largest global network of multinational organisations". It has nearly 800 member companies, which are sent questionnaires twice a year.

Barry Rodin, of ECA International, said yesterday: "The cost of living in Britain has been cheaper than other countries in the EU since Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism in 1992."

He said that though European unity might have been expected to move countries' living costs closer together, a "significant gulf" remained between countries like Denmark and Germany at the top and Britain and Portugal.

ECA's cost of living table does not take account of accommodation costs. Although Britain has the lowest cost of living within the EU, London's rents are the highest.

US agent wins libel action over Lockerbie

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

A PUBLISHER agreed to pay "very substantial" damages yesterday after admitting that there was "no truth whatever" in a conspiracy theory that the Lockerbie bombing was the result of recklessness and sloppy security by an American drug enforcement officer.

Former special agent Michael Hurley was awarded libel damages against Bloomsbury Publishing and Penguin Books, publishers of *Trail of the Octopus*, in which co-author Lester Coleman alleged incompetence had enabled terrorists to swap a suitcase bomb for a controlled drugs delivery on a Pan Am flight which exploded over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270. Mr Hurley had blacklisted Coleman from government service in June 1988 for alleged dishonesty.

Adrienne Page, for Mr Hurley, told the High Court that he had retired after 32 years in law enforcement and intended to run a lumber business, but the blame attached to him by the book was "immensely heavy and has caused him and his family embarrassment, distress and hurt".

Eagle flies in the face of extinction

BY MICHAEL HORNBY

BRITAIN'S largest bird of prey, the white-tailed eagle, is making a slow comeback from the edge of extinction as mankind seeks to atone for the excesses of past persecution.

The bird, popularly known as the "flying barn door" because of its 8ft wingspan, was more common than the golden eagle in many parts of northern and western Britain in the last century. There were more than 100 eyries on the craggy coasts of Scotland and Ireland.

By 1916 the birds, also known as cranes, were all but extinct in the British Isles, the last nest being recorded in that year on Skye. Trophy hunters had shot the birds in their hundreds, fishermen had smashed their eggs to protect fish catches and landowners had killed them because of a perceived threat to young lambs.

Haliaeetus albicilla, a cousin of the American bald eagle, survived in England into the 18th century on the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Man and in the Lake District. The last English nest was recorded in Cumberland in 1791. Conservationists began to



The white-tailed eagle

reintroduce the birds to the island of Rum and other sites on the west coast of Scotland from their last western European stronghold in Norway in 1975. Mike Pienkowski, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who helped to set up the project, said: "We reckon that there are more than 50 birds now living in the wild and their number is increasing."

By 1995, the imported eagles had produced 46 young. None of these has yet produced offspring of its own, but there are high hopes that a Scottish-bred pair will hatch young later this year.

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German firms to face cash claims from Nazi slaves

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN companies which have for decades hidden or played down their use of forced labour are now faced with an uprising by their former slaves.

The Constitutional Court, in a verdict published yesterday, has ruled that some slave labourers from the Nazi era can at last press their claims in court.

For many, the ruling has come too late. The Third Reich used some 10 million people for forced labour, mainly drawn from occupied countries, and barely a million are still alive. All are old, most are sick, crippled and poor. The German authorities have argued that bilateral settlements with individual countries excluded the need for individual court cases.

Between 1938 and 1945, the Jewish Claims Conference received about DM55 million (£23 million) for Jewish slave labourers from companies such as IG Farben, Krupp, Siemens and AEG. Daimler-Benz — one of the few German companies actively to research its history of slave labour — has paid out about DM15 million for pensions. Lump sums have been paid to Poland and, since the fall of communism, to Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine. Yet the cash has usually come slowly, and only after the roughest of bargaining. The German compensation to victims in Eastern European countries, for example, lumps together concentration camp victims, former ghetto inhabitants and slave labourers, and the average payout per person is about £350.

With some countries, such as the Czech Republic and the Baltic states, there has been no settlement at all. Many German companies still deny their responsibility, and bureaucratic procedures slow the processing of claims.

The Constitutional Court considered the cases of 22 Polish, Hungarian and German slave labourers, all Jewish, who worked in the so-called Union munitions factory close to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The factory paid cash to the SS for every labourer, but the workers themselves were given only a paltry food ration and no money. They have been demanding modest sums from the German Government, between £3,700 and £10,000.

The Government and the lower courts resisted on the ground that bilateral settle-

ments ruled out individual claims, as did the absence of a final peace treaty. The Constitutional Court has not completely overturned this line of argument, but has cleared the way for individual legal challenges.

"Today's decision means there is finally hope again for hundreds of thousands of people forced into slave labour by the Nazi regime," said Volker Beck, a Green Party deputy. "After more than 50 years they must be given compensation."

The Federal Association of Information and Advice for Nazi Victims said: "Compensation for Nazi slave labourers is long overdue. For decades the German Government has hidden behind flimsy legal arguments while it played for time."

Many big companies that survived the war, such as Volkswagen, are now vulnerable. The legal successors to IG Farben — Bayer, Hoechst and BASF — are also likely to face suits. At a recent general meeting of Bayer, campaigners argued that the company had a moral obligation to set aside money for those who had died or had been crippled through work in IG Farben factories.

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The question of moral responsibility has been contested by the survivor companies of IG Farben. The head architect of Hoechst argues, for example, that the rubber factory was moved to Auschwitz not for cheap labour but for easy access to water and coal and the fact that it was out of range of British bombers.

Historians are now challenging this version, unearthing conversations in which executives discussed the supply of slave labour with the SS. These findings will reinforce the former slaves as they start their long march through the courtrooms.



The sinister slogan that greeted prisoners at the main gate of Auschwitz

Payback to Holocaust survivors

BY ROGER BOYES

Budapest In a landmark agreement, Hungary agreed to help its 20,000 Holocaust survivors with cash and return confiscated Jewish property in a plan Jewish groups hailed yesterday as a model for East Europe.

Israel Singer, secretary-general of the US-based World Jewish Congress, said: "This is a model for Eastern European restitution ... It is the last chapter of World War Two being written."

Under the Treaty of Paris in 1947, Hungary was obliged to make restitution of Jewish property, but a Communist government ignored the agreement and nationalised many of the properties. Efforts to secure restitution began after the collapse of communism in 1989. (Reuters)

COMPANIES in Germany have always been reluctant to accept their share of the blame for the way they profited from the work of camp inmates during the Third Reich.

At the Nuremberg trials, 23 members of the IG Farben board were put on trial; ten were freed and the rest received sentences of between 18 months and eight years' jail for the use of slave labour, for crimes against humanity and for preparation of an aggressive war. In 1951 all the jailed managers were released and two later received medals.

The Third Reich, racked by labour shortages, took ten million men and women, chiefly from Central and Eastern Europe, to keep German factories working day and night. Between 1942 and Janu-

ary 1945, at least 25,000 labourers lost their lives in one Auschwitz chemicals factory producing synthetic rubber for tyres.

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Fans pay homage at Paris tomb of rock icon

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of rock music pilgrims streamed into Père-Lachaise cemetery yesterday to stand at the grave of Jim Morrison, lead singer of The Doors, who lived fast and died young from a drug overdose 25 years ago.

The mourners included a handful of veteran hippies from the 1960s but the majority who came to lay flowers, light candles and, in at least one case, scrawl graffiti on nearby tombs, were born after Morrison's death, followers of the worldwide cult that has grown up around the wild-living singer-poet.

"He was the greatest," said Paul Price, 21, from Milton Keynes, who travelled to France to attend the impromptu wake as soon as the cemetery gates opened yesterday morning. "I'm into The Doors, their music is one of my greatest influences. I'm in a rock band."

Rainer Moddemann, the German head of the Jim Morrison Fan Club, distributed free pamphlets at the crowded graveside "to pay tribute to the man I've been loving for 29 years now ... to be near the man who influenced me more deeply than any other poet, singer man or anything else."

Morrison, "The Lizard King", was found dead in a bath in his Paris flat on July 3, 1971, having suffered a heart attack apparently caused by a fatal combination of drink, asthma medication and drugs. He was 27.

The rock star's simple grave at Père-Lachaise, a cemetery he shares with such notables



Fans drape the Stars and Stripes over the grave of Jim Morrison at Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris yesterday

as Oscar Wilde, Balzac and Chopin, has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris — to the frustration of the city authorities, who found that fans were using the spot for drug and sex parties at night. Fans also defaced neighbouring tombs with such messages as "Jim, we want your babies".

Some years ago a bust of Morrison on the grave was stolen, and there have been attempts by fans to exhume the singer's corpse.

Nocturnal pilgrimages to the grave became so excessive that the city had to post a 24-hour security guard and install two hidden video cameras.

The authorities considered trying to move the grave, either to a more distant site or

out of the cemetery altogether. Morrison's widow, Patricia Keneally, reportedly wanted to cremate him and take the ashes to the US, although the singer's parents have a lease on the site until 2001. But according to Herr Moddemann, the French Culture Ministry decreed this year that the grave "should stay at the same place for eternity".

On the twentieth anniversary of the singer's death in 1991, the cemetery was closed to the public, provoking a riot by fans outside the gates which was dispersed by police using teargas.

Anxious to avoid a repetition of those scenes, the authorities allowed access to the grave yesterday while a dozen security guards patrolled the area and prevented anyone

from drinking, singing or sitting down.

None of the band members was expected to attend what has become Morrison's shrine, but by mid-morning at least 2,000 people had visited the grave, a guard estimated.

Werner Kranz, from Frankfurt, was one of the hundreds of young fans who travelled long distances to place flowers on Morrison's grave and then stand in reverent silence.

"This is incredible. So many people. It's wonderful," said Mr Kranz, who was wearing trademark Morrison leather trousers.

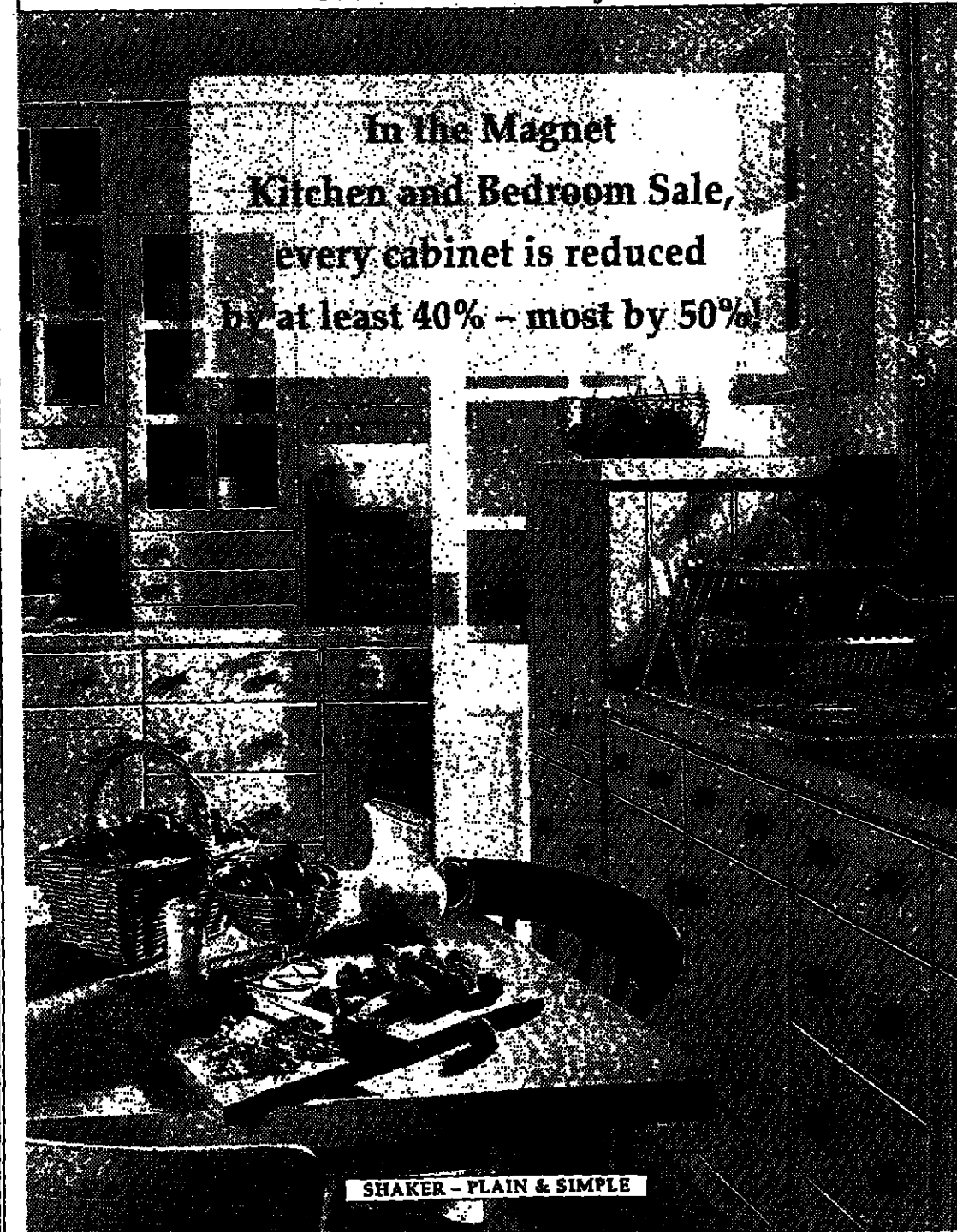
Fans said they planned to hold a party last night in the restaurant opposite the apartment at 17 Rue Beaubourg, in the Marais district, where the singer died.



Morrison: died in Paris at the age of 27

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Nasa takes wraps off 21st-century spaceship

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW spaceship for the 21st century has been unveiled by Nasa, the US space agency. Cheaper, simpler and more efficient than the space shuttle, a half-size version of the new rocket should be sprinting to the edge of space by 1999.

A full-size version could be operational by 2005, when the shuttle will reach the end of its life.

"The next chapter in America's journey to new worlds", as Vice-President Al Gore described it, is a wedge-shaped craft 67ft long and 66ft wide at the tail, designed by Lockheed Martin Corporation.

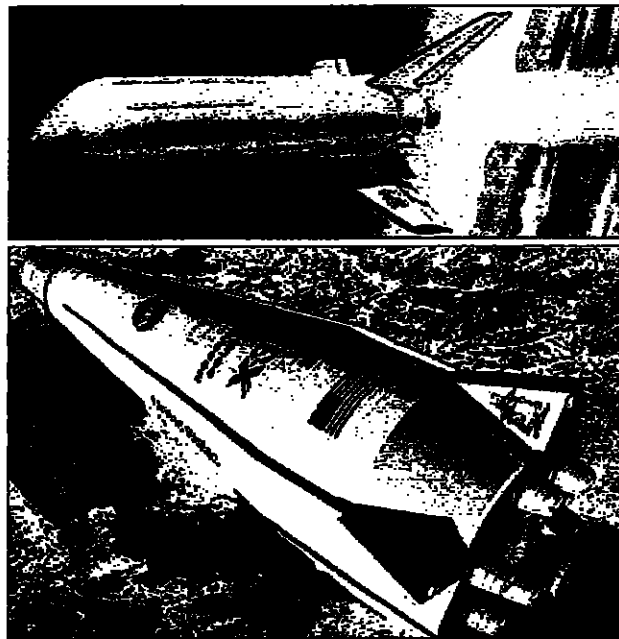
Like the shuttle, the new rocket will take off vertically and glide to a landing on a normal runway. It won a contract which is worth nearly \$1 billion (£650 million) ahead of two rival designs, from Rockwell International and McDonnell Douglas.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand the importance of this moment," said Mr Gore as he unveiled a model of the winning design, known as X33, in Pasadena, California, late on Tuesday. Nasa administrator Daniel Goldin put it more plainly: "Our goal is a reusable launch vehicle that will cut the cost of a pound of payload to orbit from \$10,000 to \$1,000."

In reality, the X33 falls some way shy of the Starship Enterprise, the spacecraft used to

transport Captain Kirk and his crew on their endless Star Trek missions. If successful, it will act as the first stage in developing a shuttle successor, called VentureStar, which will do what the shuttle was meant to do but did not.

The X33, an unmanned half-size version designed to prove the technology, will have a rocket engine fuelled by liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.



Losers in the space race: top, Rockwell's design for a reusable launch vehicle and, above, the McDonnell Douglas vertical landing rocket

Unlike earlier rocket engines, however, the geometry of the exhaust will be controlled by its own flow, rather than by a traditional bell-shaped nozzle. This should give greater efficiency, since a fixed nozzle can be at peak efficiency at only one pressure, or altitude.

"It's more efficient, but a lot more complicated," said Richard Osborne, a British rocket specialist. "The concept has

been tested since the early 1970s. A drawback is that the rocket has to be integrated with the airframe, unlike conventional rockets which can be attached anywhere."

Unlike the shuttle, the X33 and its full-size successor are designed to be completely reusable, with no throwaway parts. But far greater economy is likely to be achieved by quicker turnaround times, perhaps as short as a few days, and smaller launch crews.

Lockheed Martin will design, build and conduct the first flight of the X33 by March 1999, and conduct at least 15 flights by December that year. Nasa has budgeted \$941 million for the project, and Lockheed Martin will invest \$220 million of its own money. This is more than the other bidders offered.

The least innovative element of the design is that it will glide to a landing exactly as the shuttle does. The McDonnell Douglas design would have taken off and landed vertically, giving the craft the theoretical potential of landing in a cornfield, anywhere.

The ambition is to make space flight as routine as air travel. The shuttle programme started with much the same aim in 1972, but after 78 missions the cost is still high, at \$3 billion a year for seven or eight flights.



Daniel Goldin with a model of the VentureStar, the shuttle replacement

Backpack case rests on Briton

Sydney: The prosecution's summing up yesterday at the trial of Ivan Milat, 31, the alleged backpacker murderer, centred on a British tourist's evidence of a narrow escape from an attack in January 1990 (Roger Maynard writes). The Crown argued that the attack on Paul Orions, near Belanglo State Forest in the New South Wales Southern Highlands, was inextricably linked with the death of seven young hitch-hikers, including two Britons, whose bodies were found in the forest. The judge is to begin his summing up next week.

Eight years for ex-cult member

Tokyo: A former Aum Shin-rikyo cult member was jailed for eight years for helping to produce the kind of nerve gas used in the Tokyo subway attack in March 1995. Kazuyoshi Takizawa, 27, who left the cult last August, said he had acted on the orders of Shoko Asahara, the leader, who is also on trial. (AP)

Jakarta poll ban on candidate

Jakarta: A political faction led by Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of the late President Sukarno, will not be allowed to contest next year's elections. Antara news agency said. The Government fears she may eventually challenge President Suharto in the 1998 presidential poll. (Reuters)

Mosquito dearth squashes contest

Helsinki: An annual challenge in bare-handed Arctic mosquito-killing has been cancelled by Finnish organisers because of a lack of insects, blamed on an unusually cold summer. Last year's winner, stripped to the waist, killed 21 in five minutes. (Reuters)

Anti-smoking pack makes butt of Dole

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE abandoned his regular pack of Lucky Strikes almost 50 years ago and his smoking younger brother has since died of emphysema. Yet the Republican presidential nominee committed a patent political blunder over his apparent attachment to tobacco yesterday.

In an extraordinary broadside against the respected views of Dr C. Everett Koop, a former Republican Surgeon-General, Mr Dole accused the doctor of having been a "little bit brainwashed" by the

liberal American media in his belief that cigarettes were addictive. The statement came after a week on the stump in which Mr Dole faced fierce criticism from the Democrats for accepting large donations from the tobacco industry.

He has been followed at every turn by Buttman, an anti-smoking protester dressed as a cigarette, who was created by the Clinton spin doctors.

Mr Dole had rebutted the attacks by accusing the Democratic Party of hypocrisy over its own receipt of large campaign donations from the tobacco industry. At the end of last week Dr Koop, the

Surgeon-General under President Reagan and a man whose medical views are venerated on both sides of the political divide, said Mr Dole's views "either exposed his abysmal lack of knowledge of nicotine addiction, or his blind support of the tobacco industry".

"Senator Dole suggested that Dr Koop, whom I assume is a Republican, had been brainwashed by the liberal media," said President Clinton. "Well, I imagine Dr Koop was surprised to hear that. I believe Dr Koop knows more about the dangers of tobacco than the so-called liberal media or Senator Dole."

Manatees die in 'red tide'

St Petersburg, Florida: An unusual outbreak of "red tide" was to blame for the mysterious deaths of a record number of manatees in the spring (Lisa Holewa writes).

Red tides are caused by a toxic micro-organism that accumulates in shellfish. When the deaths of the walrus-like manatees began in March, the red tide was the worst for that month since 1982, when similar deaths occurred. (AP)

Hi-tech era grounds Swiss army pigeons

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

WITH 7,000 career soldiers and 30,000 civilian reservists, they were a formidable fighting force. But Switzerland's squadron of army carrier pigeons was finally demobilised this week after 77 years — pushed out by the advance of electronic communications.

The squadron and its base near Berne are to be placed

under the civilian leadership of the newly formed Swiss Pigeon Lovers' Foundation.

The birds were backed by a substantial lobby, who tried to collect enough signatures to force a national referendum on the issue. Had they succeeded, they would have enshrined the use of animals in the army in the constitution.

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US suspects Damascus link to Dhahran bomb

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMERICAN investigators are exploring the possible involvement of Syria in last week's bombing of US military housing in Saudi Arabia.

The investigators have identified individuals who were spotted observing several US military housing complexes before the Dhahran explosion and had earlier passed through Syria, *The Washington Post* disclosed.

Syria was "not a place you go in and out of easily", said one US official, implying that the Syrian Government would at the very least have known of the individuals' movements.

At present the evidence was "sketchy" and "not very conclusive" but a Syrian link, if proved, would have what the official called "very high-level political consequences".

The Clinton Administration has made strenuous efforts to court Syria, which it sees as the key to a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

but could hardly ignore its involvement in an atrocity that killed 19 American servicemen and wounded 250 others.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, has warned that "if the sponsors of this act were another nation, we will take appropriate action against that nation". In 1993 President Clinton ordered a cruise missile attack on government buildings in Baghdad after Iraq's attempted assassination of President Bush during a visit to Kuwait.

Underscoring the enormous importance the Administration attaches to this case, Louis Freeh, the FBI director, flew to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for two days of talks with the US investigators and senior Saudi officials.

The *New York Times* suggested that one purpose of his visit was to improve the working relationship between the American investigators and the Saudi authorities. In May

the Saudis executed four men convicted of last year's bombing of an American military installation in Riyadh without first letting US agents question them. Washington officials have alleged that the Saudis had accepted FBI help until four suspects were caught, and then cut off contact.

The State Department, which has announced a \$2 million (£1.3 million) reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible, said notice of the reward would be posted on the Internet, which has subscribers in Syria and several other countries the US has labelled state sponsors of terrorism.

Initially the team of some 70 FBI agents and other investigators dispatched to Saudi Arabia after the bombing assumed it was the work of Saudi extremists opposed to the presence of Western troops. Their new working

hypothesis is that the bombers were helped by accomplices outside Saudi Arabia.

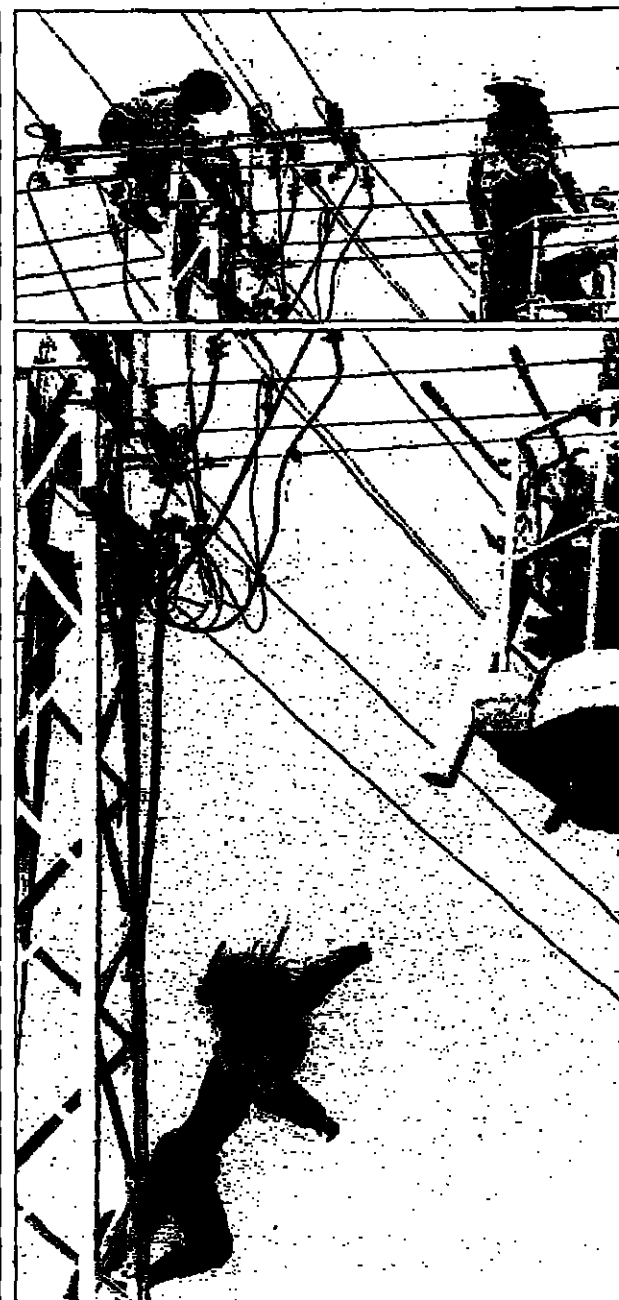
Another factor supporting that hypothesis was the sheer size of the bomb, which contained about 5,000lb of explosives inside a petrol lorry. The investigators believe some of those explosives must have been imported.

The fact that the bombing was claimed by Hezbollah-Gulf, a previously unknown group, has also cast suspicion on Iran. President Weizman of Israel, after talks with Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, was the first to point the finger at Iran.

The Hezbollah claim was initially overlooked in some quarters by those who favoured the theory that the Dhahran blast was solely the work of Saudi veterans from the Afghan War or from one of the 50 to 100 Islamic militant cells thought to be operating inside the country.

In Washington, the Saudi bomb has undermined a concerted drive by various congressmen and city officials to reopen the stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House that was closed following last year's Oklahoma bombing.

However, Eljay Bowron, director of the Secret Service, pointed out that the US military had now installed security barriers 400ft from the Dhahran barracks and that Pennsylvania Avenue is only 300ft from the White House.



Srdjan Nikolic, seven, falls from a pylon as a fireman tries to rescue him in Pancevo, Serbia. Srdjan, who ran away from home to avoid a haircut, was not badly hurt — but his head was shaved when he was taken to hospital for a check-up

TV ultimatum on job for Sharon riles Netanyahu

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LESS than a week before his first trip to Washington as Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu suffered a setback yesterday when his Foreign Minister threatened to resign unless Ariel Sharon was given a Cabinet seat before the aircraft took off on Monday.

To add to the embarrassment, David Levy, 58, a political enemy of Mr Netanyahu's before their alliance of convenience prior to last month's elections, delivered his ultimatum in front of television cameras. The film crews were covering what was to have been a festive gathering at the Knesset to mark the new right-wing coalition.

Israel radio later reported more troubles in store for the 46-year-old Prime Minister when it announced that Dan Tichon, Speaker of the Knesset, had agreed to a request for a full debate on Mr Netanyahu's past. There have been allegations that during his long years of residence in the United States Mr Netanyahu's US social security file contained an entry under the name of "John J. Sullivan".

Mr Levy had embarrassed Mr Netanyahu once before by refusing to be sworn in as Foreign Minister until Mr Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of the 1982 Lebanon war, was offered a Cabinet post. The Prime Minister conceded then by proffering an experimental "Ministry of National Infra-

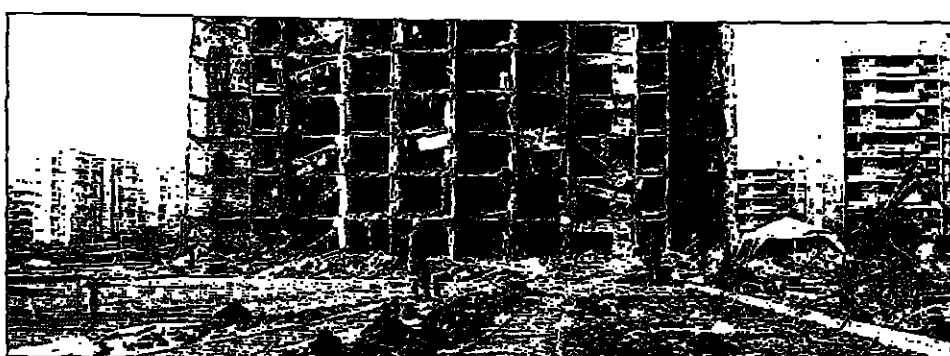
structure", but has since failed to persuade other ministers to sacrifice parts of their own portfolios to make the new ministry viable.

Mr Levy, the darling of Israel's blue-collar workers of Sephardic or Middle Eastern origin, played his cards to perfection yesterday. As cameras filmed the Knesset gathering, the Foreign Minister, seated beside Mr Netanyahu, and with Mr Sharon also present, said: "If, by the time you leave... this issue has not been resolved, I will make it easier by vacating a place."

Mr Netanyahu, theoretically the strongest Israeli leader yet by virtue of being the first to be directly elected, did not disguise his anger over Mr Levy's tactic. "We will do it [discuss this issue] but not here," he retorted. "And that is the bottom line — not here. I do not conduct negotiations, certainly not on such sensitive issues, Foreign Minister, sir, in the presence of cameras."

The Left was swift to gloat that the man, seen as master of the television soundbite, had been cruelly exposed to "political blackmail" in the presence of cameras. The encounter has made Mr Sharon's lack of a job once again the main political issue.

But most Israeli commentators claimed that by Monday afternoon Mr Sharon would have a Cabinet post important enough to satisfy his sizeable ego, as well as a seat in the inner kitchen Cabinet.



US and Saudi officials collect debris outside the bombed barracks in Dhahran

Saddam relatives 'under house arrest'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TWO half-brothers of President Saddam Hussein have been placed under house arrest, Iraqi opposition sources said. The dictator, paranoid and mistrustful after family defections shook his regime last summer, has also banned them from leaving the country.

Wathban Ibrahim al-Hassan, a former Interior Minister, and Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan, a former security chief, were reportedly ordered to stay at home under tight security after asking to leave Iraq. The two had long been stripped of power.

Western diplomats monitoring Iraq from Jordan said they had heard similar reports of continued feuding within Saddam's regime. He does not even trust his mother. The only people he trusts are his two sons and they have no love for his half-brothers, a European envoy said.

Last August, Wathban was

shot in the leg by Saddam's eldest son, Uday, during a quarrel which also led to the defection of two of Saddam's powerful sons-in-law. Later, the limb was amputated.

The two half-brothers were keen to leave after Saddam ordered the execution in February of his treacherous sons-in-law who had inexplicably returned to Iraq after fleeing to Jordan.

The half-brothers first fell foul of Saddam several years ago when they advised him not to let one of his daughters marry the man who turned out to be the most important defector, General Hussein Kamel Hassan. The general was Saddam's former military mastermind who divulged crucial information about Saddam's secret weapons programmes to United Nations inspectors.

In his request to leave, Wathban said he wanted to go to Jordan for medical care.

Jordan will help monitor Iraqi trade

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN AQABA, JORDAN

KING HUSAIN of Jordan yesterday promised that his country would do what it could to help Britain and other Western allies prevent President Saddam Hussein cheating when Iraq begins limited exports of oil.

The King told Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that Jordan wants strict monitoring of Iraqi food and equipment imports, permitted under the United Nations Security Council resolution. Jordan has campaigned over the devastating effects of sanctions but fears Saddam may divert imports of food, medicine and essential hospital equipment to the military.

Mr Rifkind, who spent four hours in talks here with the King, is keen to co-ordinate the allied pressure on Iraq with Jordan, which has openly sided with Iraqi opposition groups in recent months.

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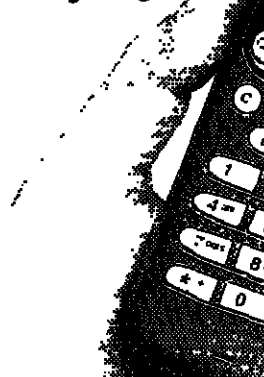
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Worst rains in 50 years bring havoc to China

By JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVERE flooding in China's eastern and southern provinces left more than 100 people dead, dozens missing and thousands homeless after the heaviest rainfall in nearly 50 years, local reports said.

Up to 11 inches of rain fell across five provinces since last weekend, causing landslides and flooding millions of acres of farmland.

Authorities in the eastern Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai, were pumping out water from the scenic West Lake in the city of Hangzhou because water levels had risen by 20 inches. There were fears that the lake, extolled by poets for its beauty and one of China's top tourist attractions, could inundate central Hangzhou. The authorities estimated losses at a billion yuan (£77 million).

Thousands of troops, police

and relief workers were mobilised in the province where almost 40 people are believed to have been killed. A local television broadcast showed electricity poles submerged up to their wires and a barge trapped under a bridge by the rising waters.

In Anhui province, north-west of Shanghai, about 500,000 acres of farmland were flooded. As many as 16,000 houses were damaged in the province which has more than 50 million inhabitants, the *China Daily* said.

In the southwest province of Guizhou, troops and police helped tens of thousands of people in almost 40 towns. Torrential rain in Guiyang, the provincial capital, caused a landslide at the railway station, trapping passengers. Some of the city's factories and schools were under three to six



Soldiers battle through rising floodwaters to take a child to safety in Guiyang, the capital of the southwest Chinese province of Guizhou

feet of water. Mudslides also proved hazardous elsewhere in the mountainous province.

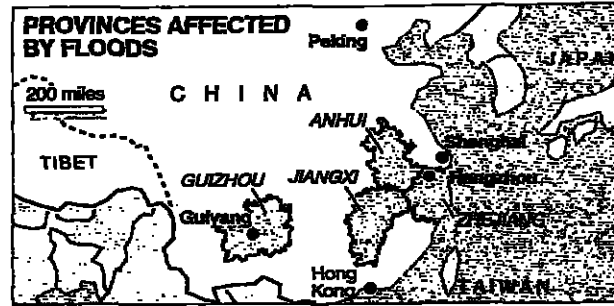
In Jiangxi province, more than 39,000 houses were said to have been swept away when a river rose 35ft. Farmland has been inundated, and road and rail traffic have been disrupted. Also affected was the province of Guangxi on the southern border with Vietnam. With communications

cut, rescue workers say it is hard to get accurate figures of the human and economic costs. Meteorologists said the situation could worsen as another four days of rain was forecast.

Floods are an annual problem in China, but environmentalists said the large-scale loss of forest cover and rapid urbanisation had magnified the impact of the torrential

rains. In Tibet, meanwhile, an earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter scale jolted the central Xigaze region of the country. The extent of damage has yet to be ascertained.

An official in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, said: "The population there is sparse and most of the people are herdsmen. The area is so remote it is difficult to get in touch with them and get any news."



Peking is urged to end 'state killings'

By JAMES PRINGLE

AMNESTY International yesterday urged China to halt a wave of "state killing" which has resulted in the execution of more than 1,000 criminals in the past two months. The rights organisation said that the executions would "fuel a climate of violence and vengeance".

Since April 28, when authorities began their Strike Hard campaign against criminals, particularly drug-dealers, mass rallies have been held in dozens of cities, with those arrested being driven through the streets on the back of lorries, often with ropes around their necks.

In northeast and southwest China, billboards have been erected giving the names and crimes of those arrested; those that have been executed are denoted by a large red tick.

Most people in Peking and other cities say they support the campaign, although they add that senior officials who have committed crimes generally avoid harsh punishment, while ordinary people are dealt with more severely. There is little doubt, however, that there has been a recent crime wave which has led to the deaths of several foreigners, and prompted the British Embassy in Peking to warn businessmen about the dangers of travelling in China.

Referring to the extent of capital punishment since the campaign started, Amnesty said: "This number of executions is shocking and will only serve to fuel a climate of violence and vengeance." The report added: "This is state killing on a massive scale — the international community should pressure China to stop such widespread and arbitrary violation of the basic right to life."

Diplomats in Peking say that the campaign is the most ferocious since a similar crackdown on crime in 1983 resulted in as many 10,000 people being executed in just a few months. China executed 2,535 people last year and about 2,050 in 1994, according to Amnesty estimates. "Each year, more people are executed in China than in the rest of the world put together," Amnesty said. "With the Strike Hard campaign, China looks set to break its own record."

Amnesty expressed concern over the pressure put on police to bring miscreants to quick justice, and said this might result in an increased use of torture to force confessions. It cited a case in northeast China in which three men who allegedly robbed a car loaded with banknotes on May 21 were arrested on May 24, and sentenced to death on May 27. Their appeals were rejected on May 28 and they were executed on May 31.

Victims of Kashmiri kidnap 'are still alive'

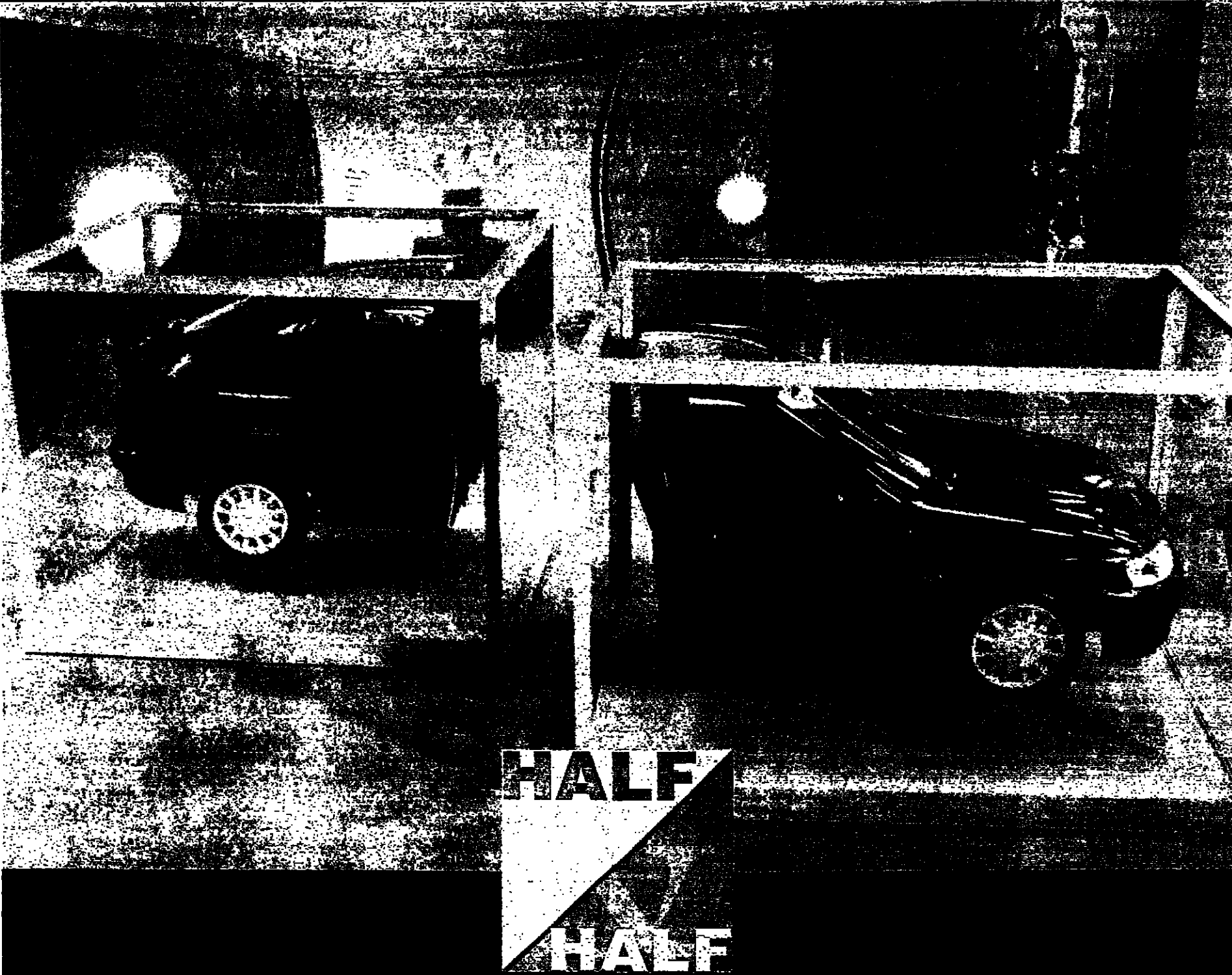
By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

POLICE from Britain, America and Germany have interrogated a leading Kashmiri militant at a remote mountain spot where he says four Western hostages were buried shortly before Christmas. Nothing was found, further confusing a mysterious kidnap crisis that began a year ago today.

Indian government sources said there was no evidence that the men — Britons Paul Mangan and Keith Wells, a German and an American — had been killed. Nor is there any hard evidence that they are alive. A German MP added to the mystery this week when she was quoted as saying the hostages had been seen. "I base this on local inhabitants of the mountains who claim to have seen them in the past few days," said Vera Lengsfeld, a Green deputy, reported by a German television station.

India and the three Western governments involved are still working on the assumption that the hostages are alive, although it is presumed they have health problems.

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Cynical voters back Yeltsin 'healthy or sick, alive or dead'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND ANATOLI LIEVEN IN MEDVEZHI OZERO, CENTRAL RUSSIA

WHEN Russian voters headed to the polls yesterday to elect a head of state for the first time in their nation's history, they either did not know or did not care about the declining health of the incumbent, President Yeltsin.

While rumours of heart ailments and drinking binges have kept the world's press gripped for the past week, in Russia the issue of the Kremlin leader's sudden disappearance from public view has barely merited a mention in the pro-Yeltsin media.

Efforts by Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party challenger, to demand a medical commission of inquiry into President Yeltsin's fitness for the post were ignored by officials and the public.

"We are voting today to keep the Communists from coming back to power," said Gleb, a Muscovite. "We have no choice but to vote for Yeltsin. It is irrelevant if he is healthy or sick, alive or dead."

Many people did not go to the polls, giving as their reasons dislike of both candidates. Sitting on a bench in the sun in the village of Medvezhi Ozero, outside Moscow, Maria Mikhailovna and her daughter, Katya, said that they had voted on opposite sides in the first round but were not going to vote yesterday.

"It is not a real choice," Maria said. "None of us is happy with the way things are now, and this Yeltsin regime is

utterly corrupt. But we don't want to go back to the past either." Katya said she voted for Mr Yeltsin in the first round, but "that doesn't mean I like him much. He's old and sick. There should be a better candidate but there isn't."

Russian cynicism about the true state of health of their leaders is hardly a new phenomenon and can be blamed squarely on the legacy of Soviet rule. For decades the public was deliberately misinformed about the condition of

blamed on "colds", became a national joke.

In President Yeltsin's case his physical state has been harder to keep secret, particularly when a drinking bout led to his infamous non-appearance at an official reception at Shannon airport in Ireland two years ago.

In some ways, Mr Yeltsin's invisibility in recent days and the consequent extra prominence of General Aleksandr Lebed may have worked in favour of the President. Most former voters for the general interviewed yesterday said that they would now vote for Mr Yeltsin because General Lebed is supporting him.

Nadezhda Timofeyevna, a former paediatrician, said that she had voted for General Lebed in the first round and would now vote for Mr Yeltsin, "but only because Lebed is with him and I hope he will eventually retire in favour of Lebed. I hope Lebed will bring some honesty and order to the Government."

A group of students on their way to vote was more positive about Mr Yeltsin and less so about the general, at least until they were told that General Lebed wants to end conscription and move to a professional army.

"Now that's a good idea, we're all for that," Mikhail, a student architect, told me. "But otherwise I'm not sure about Lebed. Soldiers always want to impose discipline and we are against that."



the General Secretary of the Communist Party.

Lenin set the trend when he was completely incapacitated in 1922, but nevertheless remained Soviet leader for another 16 months, while reports insisted he was making a rapid recovery.

The gross misrepresentation became even more absurd in the 1970s and 1980s when a succession of invalids ruled the Soviet Union, from Leonid Brezhnev to Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko, whose regular absences,

Official 'cold' fails to hide heavy toll of a tough campaign

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

PRESIDENT YELTSIN was not looking at his best when he went to vote. It was officially reported that the Russian leader has been ill for a few days with a cold, but those who remember the leadership of Khrushchev and Bulganin will also remember that this favourite diagnosis for Kremlin doctors covers all emergencies, both political and medical.

Mr Yeltsin moved slowly and awkwardly in the polling booth; the

commentators described his gait as stiff. Certainly his speech was slower than usual, and his expression was wooden until it was relieved by a smile when he answered a question.

The vigorous campaign could not have been less suitable for a man who last year had two heart attacks. Every time a coronary artery is blocked, some of the muscle of the heart is damaged, and thereafter the heart is less efficient at pumping the

oxygenated blood around the body. The brain needs an abundant supply of oxygen if it is to function well and it is not unusual to see signs of loss of intellectual capacity in those cases in which heart muscle has been badly affected.

There are other possible causes for any apparent change in Mr Yeltsin's demeanour. The President could have had a small stroke, for the factors which predispose to heart attacks also make strokes more likely. Heart disease often produces an irregular rhythm which can lead

to the formation of small clots and hence a stroke, even if the arteries in the head and neck are otherwise free of disease.

It seems unlikely that Mr Yeltsin has had another coronary; if he had, he would still have been resting, however important the vote. Nor is the explanation that he might still be taking drugs to control pain from an earlier heart attack feasible. He was first reported to be ill several days ago and if he had had another coronary thrombosis he would no longer be needing strong painkillers.

Professor Brian Pentecost, of the British Heart Foundation, says that the normal mortality rate in the first year after a heart attack is about 12 per cent, which would be considerably greater in a patient who had had two attacks in a short time.

The chance of a recurrence becomes progressively less likely as time elapses, but having two attacks so close to each other may have damaged the heart muscle so much that an arduous election campaign, possibly coupled with a cold, has tested it beyond its limits.



Aleksii II, the Russian Patriarch, votes in Moscow's Danilovsky monastery yesterday

Autocratic rule carries risk of political chaos

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ONE central and ominous fact of Russian history has not changed with this election: the way power is identified overwhelmingly with one individual.

Under the constitution, if the President dies or if he suffers from "permanent incapacity due to the condition of his health", the Prime Minister — Viktor Chernomyrdin — takes over as acting president and elections are held within three months. That means the whole political apparatus could be turned over relatively quickly.

"Russia is a whole separate world submissive to the will, caprice and fantasy of a single man," the Russian thinker Pyotr Chaadayev wrote in 1854. "Whether his name is Pyotr or Ivan is not important. In all cases the common element is that he is the embodiment of arbitrary power." The new Russian President

has powers that are only slightly less restricted than Tsar Nicholas I in the 1850s. The moment he is elected he dismisses the entire government and appoints a new one. He has full responsibility for defence and foreign policy and in some circumstances can dissolve parliament and rule by decree.

Mr Yeltsin secured himself these powers of a democratically elected tsar in December 1993, in a referendum on a new constitution which he won only by a narrow margin. The text was decided literally at gunpoint, when the President smashed his parliamentary opposition with tanks on the streets of Moscow two months before. In that confrontation, one of Mr Yeltsin's main opponents, his running-mate from 1991, Aleksandr Rutskoi, ended up in jail and the post of Vice-President was abolished.

This perpetual threat of instability will renew pressure by some of Mr Yeltsin's aides for him to found a substantial political party

that will outlast him. It is an idea he has resisted for tactical reasons up until now, preferring to stay "above politics" and shift with the political tide. In 1992 he was surrounded by reforming economic radicals; as their policies became more unpopular he shifted to a team of more old-style bureaucrats. As allegiances changed, the level of Kremlin infighting and intrigue escalated.

However all these different players came together to wage the presidential campaign. Its only defining element was a rejection of Communism and its success largely depended on painting the Communists into an ideological corner. As a result the President won as wide a range of endorsements as it would be possible to imagine: from former dissidents and liberals such as the pro-Western

former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar to the neo-fascist and anti-Semitic leader Aleksandr Barkashov. As of today that alliance is over and it is back to politics as normal. Some of Mr Yeltsin's aides are already jockeying for supremacy and claiming credit for his campaign. Anatoli Chubais, the former privatisation chief and de facto head of the campaign team, said yesterday he hoped the new government would have a "stronger component" of reformers.

The whole picture has been shaken up by the dramatic arrival on the scene of another politician without a party, General Aleksandr Lebed, who strode cowboy-like into the job of Secretary of the Kremlin Security Council, after coming third in the first round of the election on June 16. Like Mr Yeltsin, General Lebed is not a party politician and likes the roles of rebel and independent. The presence of a new loose cannon in the Kremlin does not bode well for more political stability in the next presidential term.

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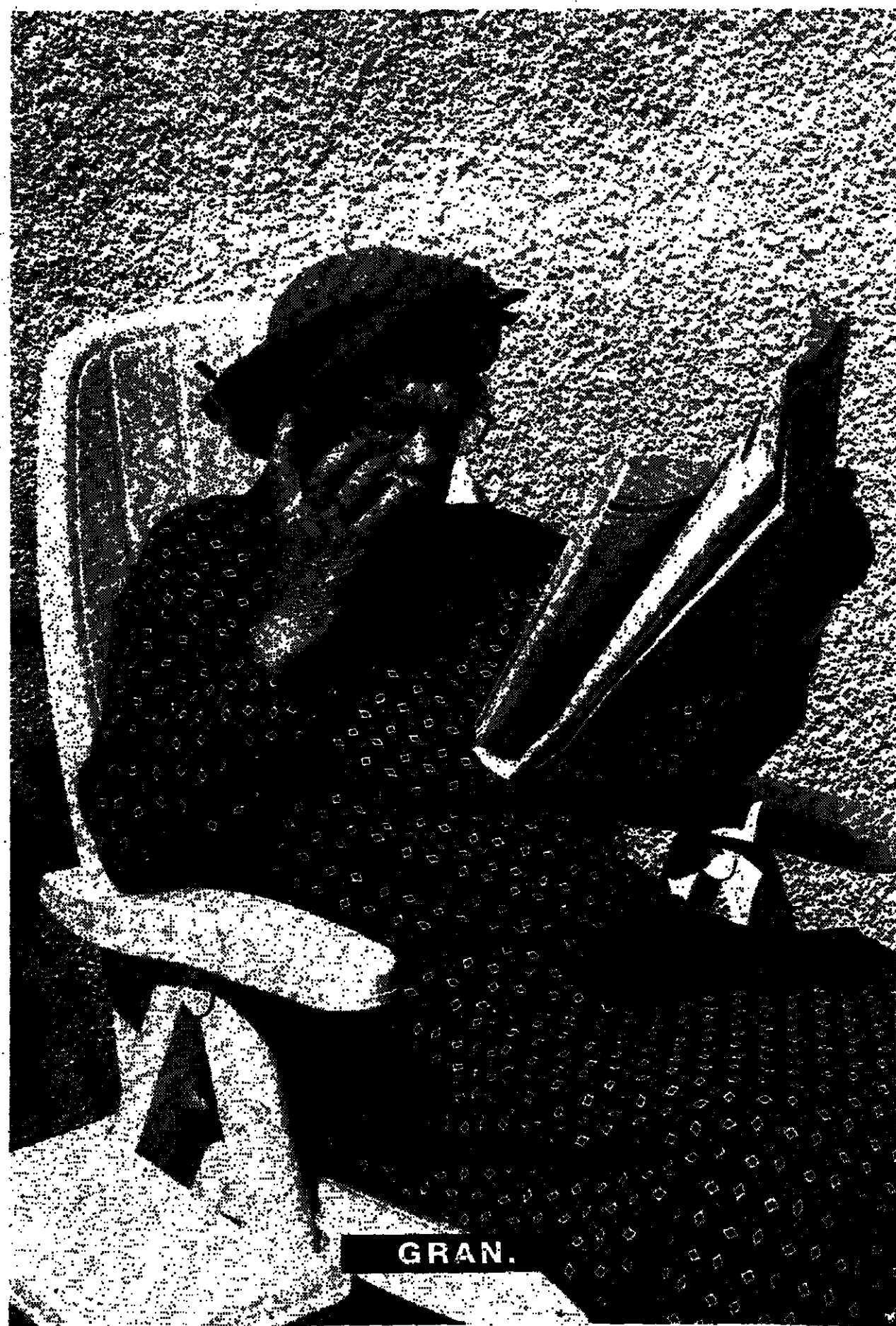
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Asthma sufferers should stick to their steroids

Cockroach cough

COCKROACHES have always had such a bad press that they have become the hallmark for squalor and poverty. There may be some doubts as to how much disease cockroaches spread but now research in the United States, by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and reported in the *British Medical Journal*, has shown that allergy to cockroaches is a potent cause of asthma in people living in run-down houses.

For many years the microscopic housemite has been considered a dangerous, unbidden guest, reducing children and others to coughing, sneezing and wheezing. Carpets have been banished, cellular blankets bought, cushions thrown out, even the central heating replaced in an effort to banish the housemite, but it usually continues to flourish and the antigens it produces in the patient's blood causes asthma and hay fever in every social class.

The research has demonstrated that in the poorest districts allergy to the cockroach is often just as an important cause of disability as the reaction to the housemite. It has even been suggested that in those areas it may explain why the incidence of asthma is not decreasing despite a reduction in the number of householders who smoke, and cleaner air. In richer families, however, the



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

mite still reigns supreme as the trigger that induces an asthma attack.

The British Lung Foundation recently launched a campaign to reassure patients with asthma about the safety of their steroid inhalers, and it has produced a leaflet which explains to those who are prescribed steroids how the drug works. The foundation's educational programme has been prompted by a survey that shows half the patients with asthma and three quarters of adults who have asthmatic children as well as a quarter of the doctors who prescribe the drugs have worries about the safety of steroids. Surprisingly, a third of the patients actually think, even as they inhale, that the treatment could be doing more harm in the long term than good. In fact, steroids, when inhaled through an inhaler or nebuliser, cause only minimal side-effects, confined mainly to minor infections of the mouth or vocal cords. They can, conversely, be life-saving.

Some of the alarm is attributed by the lung foundation to a lack of understanding that the steroids taken for asthma are quite different from the anabolic steroids misused by athletes. Sadly, I have even come across children who have been bullied by their classmates for "using steroids".

When broad beans bring on anaemia

I SHOULD have asked Ramin, a friendly 12-year-old Iranian boy, what he enjoyed most for supper. If only I had inquired after his diet, it would have been obvious why he was so pale, and it would have provided the explanation for his recurrent bouts of tiredness.

Ten days before Ramin came to see me, he and his family had broken their journey from Los Angeles to Tehran to spend a few days with relatives in London. After the long flight he was rewarded with his favourite meal, broad beans and rice spiced with dill. The day after his journey his parents thought he looked faintly yellow, and noticed that he had very dark urine. By the time I saw him he was obviously anaemic, but his urine was clear.

A haematologist provided the answer. Ramin has a rare hereditary condition usually found in Mediterranean races and passed on through the female side of the family. The boy suffers from a deficiency of the enzyme G6PD which results in the patient being so sensitive to broad beans, a condition known as favism, that the blood cells are destroyed so rapidly that the person not only develops severe anaemia, but the pigment from the multitude of broken blood cells causes mild jaundice and a dark urine.

Question time for gynaecologists



WOMEN will have an opportunity next week to question Britain's leading gynaecologists and cancer specialists about screening for malignant disease.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is holding an open day on Wednesday which will be chaired by Mr Marcus Seichel, gynaecologist to the Queen and the chairman of the college's consumer group.

Breast screening, cervical smears and screening for cancer of the ovary and uterus will all be discussed by Professor Michael Baum of the Royal Marsden, Mr Joe Jordan, the Birmingham gynaecologist, Professor Stuart Campbell of St George's Hospital, London, an expert on ovarian cancer, and Mr David Oram and Professor Tim Chard from Bart's, among others.

This is a rare opportunity for people to hear problems that face both doctors and their patients, when together they have to try to settle the vexed question "Cancer screening for women: success story or anxiety trap?", the title of the day's debate. Tickets cost £10, which includes coffee, lunch and tea, and are obtainable from Alison Gavith, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1 4RG.

How a computer could hold key to stuttering

By urging their children to 'speak properly' parents may add to the anxieties that cause them to stammer. Anjana Ahuja reports

God does not play dice," Albert Einstein once said. Ask theatre director Dr Jonathan Miller to say it, and you could spend a long time waiting for the words to come out. "It's got nothing to do with some, great angel. I have about religion," Dr Miller says. "I simply can't say the word 'God'. I start stammering and get terribly flustered."

One in ten people develops a stammer at some time in their life, usually during childhood. For 80 per cent, the problem vanishes as suddenly as it arises. Depending on its severity, the other 20 per cent — this is about half a million people — have either to seek speech therapy, learn to live with their condition or avoid names or phrases that present problems.

Psychologists at University College London are using a sophisticated computer program to uncover what factors might make a child more likely to develop a stutter. Their program, being used at the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in Finsbury, central London, can identify a speech impediment with greater precision than the human ear, and can track speech patterns over a period of time. This will help to quantify how effective therapy is. And by comparing stammering patterns with other factors, such as health and intelligence, it might help to shed light on the causes of stammering.

Dr Miller, 62, is a patron of the British Stammering Association. He has had a mild



Jonathan Miller has had a mild stammer since the age of 12, which he found both embarrassing and awkward

stammer since the age of 12. Though he was never teased, he felt uncomfortable with it — "it was enough to wobble my jaw and deform my face" — and underwent therapy twice. Neither experience did much good. "The first time was just before I went up to Cambridge, so I must have been about 18. I saw a rather dashing psychoanalyst but all we did was have extremely long philosophical discussions. Mind you, my stammer disappeared during these fluent conversations."

"The second time was when I had just dropped out of *Beyond the Fringe*. I could no longer appear on stage because I found it such an ordeal. I was so anxious I went for help, but just got tranquilisers. Then I went to America and the problem seemed to disappear."

He now goes for avoidance behaviour. "I have become skilled at rapid sentence redesigning and paraphrasing," he says. He has also become adept at verbal disguise — what might seem a thoughtful pause to the listener is, in fact, a delay while a sentence is mentally reorganised. He has particular difficulties with the letter "s". "Dickens" and, of course, "God", as he happily demonstrates during our conversation. "I jam on them unless I have a good run-up. I can't say them straight off."

Dr Miller fits the textbook description of a stutterer — male and middle class. The impediment is thought to have a genetic component as it tends to run in families. True to form, Dr Miller's father had it and his sister stammers. But why should stuttering be a

middle-class affliction? Professor Peter Howell, leading the UCL research, says that middle-class parents tend to get more anxious about a toddler's natural stumbles as they learn to speak, because they tend to place great emphasis on articulate communication. By urging little Tommy to "speak properly" they might make him more anxious, and more self-conscious. This worsens the stammer.

The anxiety is compounded in later life, mainly by the lack of understanding and prejudice that confronts stammerers. They may have difficulty finding employment — regardless of qualifications or intelligence — or forming personal relationships. The psychological consequences of such isolation can be devastating. Two years ago Dominic Barker, a brilliant and handsome post-graduate, was interviewed and turned down for a job. He became convinced that the interviewers were put off by his stammer and later committed suicide.

The UCL computer program will help to refine their understanding of what factors might make a child more likely to become a stammerer. Professor Howell has spent five years developing the program, with the help of nearly 100 children.

Before getting as far as speaking to the computer, all participating children and their parents undergo a two-week assessment at the Michael Palin Centre. (The centre was opened in 1993 courtesy of a generous donation from the former Monty Python actor,

whose father stammered.) This assessment looks at the general health and intelligence of the child, two factors which appear to have a bearing on how well he or she will respond to therapy. The nature of therapy depends on age: parents of stammering toddlers are encouraged to set aside "talking time" every day and slow down their speech; teenagers are encouraged to deal with stress, become more independent and improve their social skills.

Then comes the computer program. The child is asked to speak spontaneously, to mimic normal situations, rather than reading out a passage of text. The program divides the child's monologue into individual words. It then checks each word against stammering patterns stored in its memory. The program can easily distinguish between natural stumbles and stammering. Professor Howell says: "If a person trips over a word and has to repeat it, he will pause and invest the word with greater energy, to emphasise it. A stammerer will try to get the word out as quickly as possible, even accelerating their delivery. Stammerers are less able to use stress patterns."

The program can discriminate between types of stammer. For example, some stammerers repeat particular consonants, such as "K-K-K-Katherine", and some prolong an initial consonant sound, such as "nnnnnnmother".

By examining speech recorded before and after treatment, the researchers can weigh up how successful therapy has been. They will also be

able to find out how the different age-based therapies compare. Professor Howell unveiled his first statistical analysis last month, and has had inquiries from researchers and therapists in America, Australia and Holland.

Meanwhile, there are positive steps that stammerers can take, according to the stammering association. It encourages stammerers to be open and honest about their difficulties, which makes it easier for friends and colleagues to be open. When talking to stammerers, non-stammerers are encouraged not to finish sentences, to maintain eye contact and stay relaxed. For children, the Michael Palin Centre suggests that parents talk more slowly so that a stammering child does not feel compelled to speak quickly. The child should be encouraged to talk uninterrupted, and should be praised regularly to instil confidence.

If therapy is not totally successful, stammerers can find encouragement from fellow sufferers such as Dr Miller. "I found it embarrassing and awkward, and it is only within the last 20 years that I have felt confident about speaking in public. There are others who have been much braver than me, who have gone very public with their disability, such as Ken Tynan, who raised his very bad stammer to an elegant, Wildean art form. Those are the people I really admire."

● The British Stammering Association can be contacted on 0181-983 1003.

● The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children can be contacted on 0171-530 4238.

'I have become skilled at rapid sentence redesign'

'It was enough to wobble my jaw and deform my face'

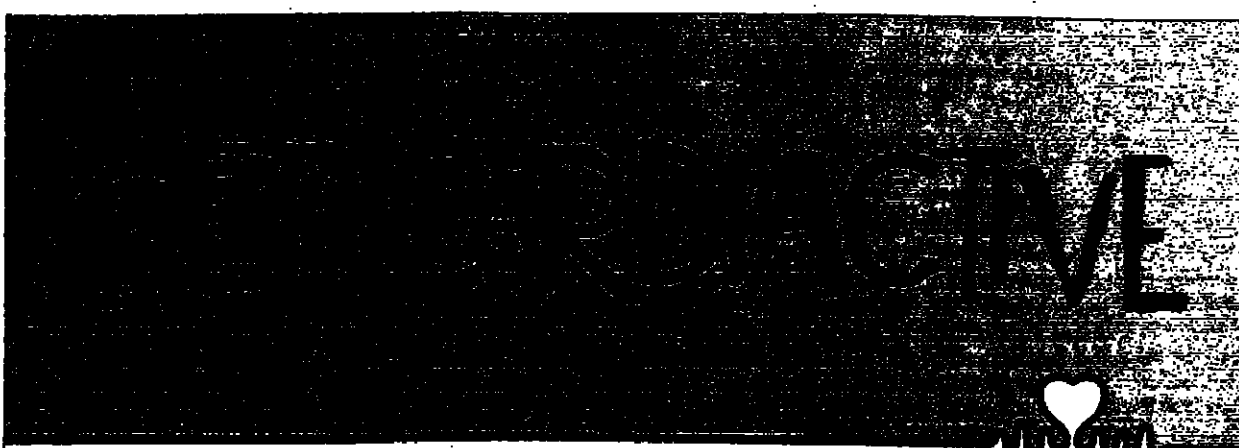
THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Cabi

The first Labour minister was not a politician, says an unnamed Joe Joseph

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Cabinet comedians?

The Tories' spoof Labour manifesto was yet another ghastly attempt by politicians to be funny, says an unamused Joe Joseph

Every now and again a politician will gaze about him at the Palace of Westminster and be so overcome by a sense of parliamentary tradition that he will immediately go out into the world and make a fool of himself by trying to be funny.

It is an ancient rite that nobody can quite fathom, as mysterious as the way turtles manage to find their spawning grounds every year.

Maybe Mawhinney and Heseltine were jolted when no talent scouts signed them up as the new Two Ronnies after they had unveiled their spoof Labour manifesto. But they weren't the first MPs who failed to realise that watching politicians attempting satire is like watching a nail trying to bang a hammer into a wall. It's the wrong way round. Satire is something inflicted on politicians, not by them.

This is not just because satire only sizes when politicians are mocked by those whom they represent. It's also because MPs spend so much time on the really crucial things in parliamentary life, such as passing new laws and attending conferences in Hawaii on the future of the Harrogate health authority, that they miss the key point about jokes. Here's the secret: they are supposed to be funny.

Being spontaneously funny requires an awful lot of homework. The best impromptu quips are written well in advance and rehearsed until they sound as if they have just flown into your head. Look at Peter Ustinov. Delivering a prepared text and making it sound funny is hideously difficult. That is why Martin Clunes or Jennifer Saunders earn more than John Major and Tony Blair combined.

There are politicians who are witty. Churchill was ("an empty taxi drew up at the House of Commons and Clement Attlee got out"). Denis Healey wasn't bad



Mawhinney and Heseltine with the spoof manifesto: not the first MPs to forget that satire is something inflicted on politicians, not by them

calling Margaret Thatcher Mama Doo. And Harold Wilson was such a natural that Tony Benn called him "the old entertainer, the Archie Rice of the Labour Party".

But essentially, MPs are funny when we say so. When they make us laugh it is invariably against their will, not by their own design.

Neil Kinnock thought himself witty. But being a master of long-winded repetition, who would say the same thing twice, often repeating it for pointless effect, before hammering the point home, (and then adding something in parenthesis for added stress), he never twigged that brevity is the soul of wit. By the time he reached his punchline most of his audiences had paid off their mortgages.

It is us voters who have a sense of humour and an eye for the absurd. Why else would we have ever



Two Ronnies: the real thing

elected Teresa Gorman or any Liberal Democrat candidate?

Here, if you can bear it, is a line from that spoof Labour manifesto: "Labour came to an agreement with the trade unions in which we agreed an even better deal... they

voted for the new Clause Four and we agreed to meet their vital employment rights demands. New Labour. New social contract."

Spot anything missing? Yup, humour. It sounds simple to you, but to a politician you have just performed the humour-based equivalent of quantum theory.

You almost feel sorry for John Redwood. Having been pilloried in the press for being humourless, he was pilloried even more last summer when he launched his bid to oust John Major, and tried to become Bob Monkhouse. His jokes were so unfunny that he almost did sound like Bob Monkhouse. "Every

MP in this contest is going to vote for a John," he joked, though you're going to have to take his word for the "joked" bit. Was he a Cabinet bastard? "Enough of you," he told the press, "have been to see my

parents for you to know that this is highly unlikely": in those complicated critiques on humour drafted by Derrida-style deconstructionists, this is known, in technical terms, as "a stinker".

Conservative Party conferences chuck out this stuff. One minute it is Hezza hopping on stage like a kangaroo. The next it is Peter Lilley rescripting Gilbert and Sullivan's *Lord High Executioner* song to relay Tory plans to cut down single parents and other delinquents:

Young ladies who get pregnant just to join the housing list, And dads who won't support the kids

Of ladies they have kissed, They'd none of them be missed. Just leave your name with the secretary on your way out, Peter, and we'll be sure to let you know if a suitable part turns up. Next!

When all you can do is throw something

What we choose to chuck says a lot about our class, says Giles Coren

WHEN company director Michael Abram tossed his wife into the sea during a marital row aboard a yacht, he was doing little more than demonstrating black belt expertise in what has become the predominant socio-martial art of the late 20th century.

He had begun with a couple of novice moves, chucking pieces of crockery overboard, before expertly executing the social shoulder-throw, equivalent of the *seio-nagi* move in judo, and dumping his wife in the briny.

While this may have been an excessive example of the rage that leads us to hurt things, lesser lobbings have been attracting attention, too.

An accomplished American pitcher is Norman Mailer. At the height of a loud row with Gore Vidal an incident occurred in which, according to a witness, "Mailer's glass ended up bouncing off Gore's head".

Vidal said of the event: "Once again, words failed him."

But to fling the glass itself is so vulgar. Better the panache of Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of British Heritage, famed for throwing typewriters out of windows in fits of rage, or the patriotic intent of the BBC

journalist Angus Pectz. He was fined £200 in January for throwing a glass at a man's head at the showing of *Braveheart*. The event was at Stirling Castle, and Pectz, raised in England, responded with the deft goblet

throw when a Scotsman mocked his accent and questioned his right to wear a kilt. He did this because it was in his blood.

Stocks on the village green to pay the ultimate price for insub-

ordination provide an historical precedent for the lower end of society (Mr Abram's boat is called *Megabus*, thus indicating exactly what sort of chap he is). The more pulka throwers must surely trace their lineage back to the chivalric tradition of throwing down the gauntlet, or slapping the offending interlocutor with one's glove.

We British also take our cue from the classics. When Odysseus, for example, came home disguised as a beggar after 20

years, the lager-lout suitors in his hall showed their contempt by pelting him with bits of food and furniture.

Kiesepous, the Gazza of the set, hurled an ox hoof at him shouting: "Take this well-earning present for a stranger."

But for the State-side chuckers, no such elevated concerns pertain. Example is provided by silent movies, the Keystone Cops, custard-pie throwing tradition —

hence the shallowness of the gesture. They will never have the class of a British tosser, never attain the perfection of Francis Urquhart who, in the political drama *House of Cards*, rose to be Prime Minister after hurling Matty, the young female journalist, to her death from the roof of the Commons.

It is a great tradition, and Mr Abrams is a proud upholder of it. His example should see the garden abuzz with flying crockery, food and even people. And if it occurs to you to upbraid anyone for their behaviour, remember only the Gospel of St John viii. 7: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a..." and supply your own projectile.



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Amber nectar from Scottish angels

About a year ago a bottle of The Macallan 1874 came up for sale at a wine auction and was bought via a telephone bid by the parent company. Would they leave it on the shelf of the directors' room in the Speyside office, keep it for the opening of a Scottish assembly, use it as security against overdrafts?

Being Scots, they pierced the cork with a hypodermic, withdrew 10ml and instructed their chief nose, whisky maker Frank Newlands, to replicate the fragrance.

By careful marriage of casks, none of which was younger than 13 years, he produced a few hogheads that had the wise men of distilling nodding their heads in wonderment.

Yesterday in the hinterland of Harrods, there was arranged a tasting of both the original and the "new Macallan 1874" — which is to be marketed at about £70 a bottle, sold in "olde worlde" wooden boxes secured with wire.

"We kept the numbers down to 60," said one of the Macallan people: "there is noobut a single bottle and we wanted all to have a taste." Guests had come from sufficiently far and wide for the public relations handout to claim us as "experts from all over the world". We all had a taste, the first time I have drunk whisky dispensed from a syringe.

In front of us sat four judges: an American parfumer, an English tea merchant, a Scottish whisky blender and a professor of brewing and distilling. Between them they had all the

The story of a whisky so rare it was dispensed for tasting from a syringe

words: woody, fruity, zesty, lemon/limey, socket-flavoured, delicate, soft, long, feather-like, smooth, cool, gentle, mellow, full-bodied, unpeaty, balanced, also "unlike Lapsang Souchong". We agreed with those verdicts. We tried to make our thimble



CLEMENT FREUD

ful last. No one asked for ginger ale.

Macallan received its first licence to distil in 1824, must have been distilling in illegal pots long before that date, and in the 1870s, the golden age of single malts, theirs was the benchmark quality.

The taste and indeed the colour are the result of directors' annual outings to Jerez in Spain where they buy oak casks, fill them with sherry of their choice and, two years later, ship these to Craigellachie in Banffshire on the banks of the River Spey, using the casks for maturation of their Highland single malt.

"The Macallan taste" is as distinctive as the Habsburg nose and the Cecil chin and we sipped and nodded and muttered words like "citrusy"; a Dutchman on my right pronounced it "fairly unique" and an Italian — Italians are major purchasers of young single malts — thought it *mamma mia*.

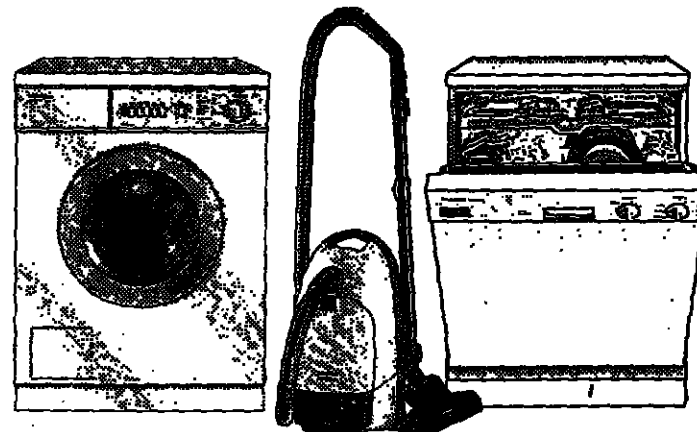
Some of us considered the new 1874 to be headier, more alcoholic than the original, and some did not. Where we all agreed was on the absence of evidence of bottle age, which is a rare achievement for a liquor that has spent a century under a cork.

For some 20 minutes we sat with two glasses moistened with the original and the pretence, made small talk, moved in the direction of the Bath Oliver biscuits and back again. Photographers took pictures of the bottle and of the cork and never had to say "just one more".

Meanwhile the remaining fluid ounces of nectar that dated back to the year in which Somerset Maugham, G.K. Chesterton, Herbert Hoover and Gertrude Stein were born, Verdi wrote his *Requiem* and Gladstone lost an election to the Conservatives having promised the abolition of income tax, were diminishing in quantity each time I came by.

In cask, spirits lose a few percentage points of volume per annum; this is known as "the angels' share". Perhaps the angels, denied access for over a century, were now making up for lost time, or perhaps it was not angels who were responsible.

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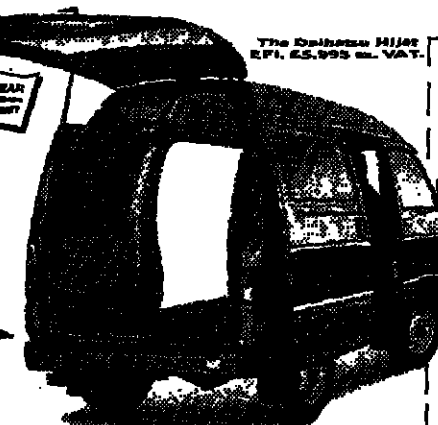
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Cold comfort in a warmer climate

Magnus Linklater on the new dangers in new nature

Gazing out of my window as the rain slants down on a vista of dripping leaves and sodden lawn, I reflect on John Gummer's views about global warming. They are strangely comforting. I am delighted to note that there is a prospect of the Granville fritillary butterfly hovering over my buddleia, and personally I cannot wait (no more can the cats) for the Dartford warbler and the noctule bat to venture north as temperatures rise.

The way Mr Gummer's panel of scientists see it, England's climate will, over the next 60 years or so, change to that of the Loire Valley, as hot weather sweeps in from the south, allowing vineyards to be planted, sunflowers to be harvested and long siestas encouraged. Meanwhile, as feckless southerners slumber in the shade, we in Scotland will benefit from a warmer, wetter atmosphere where temperate forests, rich crops and the chance of exporting billions of gallons of water to our parched neighbours will transform the economy. Milk and honey may be expected in considerable quantity.

But Mr Gummer and his advisers were also uttering stern warnings about the drawbacks of a shifting climate. Storms and other unpleasantness must be expected. Ptarmigan and the dotted willow flycatcher will be inundated and insurance claims will spiral.

Even pestilence must be anticipated as malaria-bearing mosquitoes infest the fretful waters of our lakes and streams. It's easy to joke about the weather, and most people would probably agree with James Whitcomb Riley, who wrote 100 years ago: "It hain't no use to grumble and complain! It's just as cheap and easy to rejoice! When God sorts out the weather and sends rain! Why, rain's my choice." It's an attitude that is the despair of environmental organisations, which see the Earth accelerating towards destruction, helped by apathetic governments and greedy industries. We listen and then we shrug. Greenpeace said again this week that we were living "in the shadow of an environmental disaster". In our hearts we may believe them, just as the Trojans probably sensed that Cassandra was right. But Troy still fell.

In one sense, indolence is justifiable. The sheer unpredictability of major changes in the Earth's atmosphere sometimes makes collective government action seem almost irrelevant. Nature's inscrutable progress has meant that within the past 100 years pest levels in some parts of the Western Highlands and Ireland have fallen by as much as six or seven feet — a Victorian drawing of the ancient Callinish stones on the Hebridean island of Lewis shows them peeping barely four feet above the ground; today they tower ten or 12 feet high. More recently, since the 1980s, the population of the Arctic tern in Shetland and Orkney has

fallen by some 60 per cent. Whole colonies have simply failed to breed, leading to catastrophic falls in the number of nesting pairs. Both changes stem, not from pollution or over-fishing, but from fundamental changes in the temperature of the tidal streams and the movement of ocean currents.

None of this justifies the view of the fundamentalists, who argue that nature simply adapts to human activity which is, after all, part of that same process. If that were the case, the hawk population of Britain would by now be virtually eliminated, foxes well-nigh extinct, and the food chain irreversibly damaged. It is hard now to remember the threat posed by chemicals such as mercury, benzene, hexachloride, heptachlor and dieldrin, widely used as pesticides throughout Britain in the 1960s. It took a long environmental campaign, debates in Parliament and the publication of the single most powerful work of environmental polemic in modern times, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, to have them banned.

The very fact that nature has dealt the Arctic tern and other species a heavy blow should prompt us to take even greater care of it. It is right that Shetland should have banned the catching of the sand-eels on which they feed; that Greenpeace should have been driving off the Danish trawlers which vacuum them up; that the EU should have cut herring quotas in half. People, left to their own devices, would simply proceed inexorably towards the destruction of the food chain.

Knowing when to step in is, of course, the tricky bit, as one scientist suggested to me yesterday, erring on the side of caution can never be wrong. The issues are more complex today, because they are less susceptible to direct scientific proof. The hole in the ozone layer above the Antarctic may appear to be closing thanks to the combined efforts by governments to control the use of CFCs. But at the same time, the chlorine loading of the troposphere, the lowest layer of the atmosphere, which contributes to the "greenhouse effect", is still a matter of mounting concern.

Just because there are one or two hopeful signs does not mean that environmentalists in general have ceased being pessimistic. However anxious man may be to preserve his environment, he keeps on finding new means to destroy it. Danish trawlers use more destructive nets; Chinese consumers order millions of refrigerators pumping out CFCs. As E.B. White wrote in the introduction to *Silent Spring*: "I am pessimistic about the human race because it is too ingenious for its own good." And Rachel Carson herself, contemplating the destruction of the countryside, concluded: "No witchcraft, no enemy action, had silenced the rebirth of life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves."



Keep the family silver

This week's sale of heirlooms by the Butes and Curzons shows the harm done to Britain by estate duties

Last night the Bute works of art were sold at Christie's. I went to view them on Monday. They gave a melancholy feeling because this is yet another example of the stripping down and selling off of one of the great British art collections. I am fairly internationalist about the art market. I do not really mind whether the great Maglioli desk ends up in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London or in the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. Yet I dislike being reminded of the decline of Britain's national ability to maintain what earlier generations could afford to buy. It is, I suppose, the collectors' equivalent to the football fans' feeling of being "gutted" when England lose the penalty shoot-out against Germany. Our national pride is psychologically reduced.

The Maglioli desk is a most magnificent object, well worth going to see. It did not, of course, start by being British, and it is doubtful whether it has ever been English. It was made in 1784 by Giuseppe Maglioli in Milan for Count Johann Josef von Wilczek, the plenipotentiary minister responsible for the Habsburg administration of Lombardy in the late 18th century. It was bought by William Jones, the Monmouthshire collector, and sold for him by Christie's in 1852. The desk was subsequently acquired by the 3rd Marquess of Bute who owned half of Cardiff. He took it to Mount Stuart, the family's vast Victorian house on the Isle of Bute, which is now open to the public. Some Scottish patriots feel that it should stay in Scotland.

The desk is a marvellous celebration in tulip and walnut wood of the enlightened government of Lombardy by Austria. Some north Italians would still agree that they were better governed by the liberal Habsburgs in the late 18th century than by the Roman political parties in the 20th. The great desk is an artefact of the same culture that produced Mozart and it has also become a reminder of the Welsh collecting culture of the 19th century — the Butes were neighbours of William Jones.

There were several other lots in yesterday's sale which are important both for their place in cultural history and for their beauty as objects. That is certainly true of William Kent's two tables for the Earl of Burlington's Palladian villa at Chiswick: they passed by some unestablished process from the Devonshires to the

Butes in the late 19th century. They formed an integral part of the furniture of Chiswick House, where Burlington's friends, including the great poet Alexander Pope, would have seen them; it will be a great pity if these tables do not now go back to Chiswick where they belong. Like most of William Kent's furniture designs, the Chiswick tables have a slightly comic, early Georgian fatness about them; his visual imagination was every bit as plump as Rubens's.

The 12 Sandby watercolours of Luton Hoo are equal in quality to his series on Windsor or Warwick. They were recently rediscovered in their original folio, bound with the arms of the 3rd Earl, who was George III's Prime Minister. They are now being sold in separate lots, though they form a single collection and gain interest from comparison with each other. Christie's does have a duty to obtain the highest possible price for the vendors, but when it observes that "the Bute drawings will be removed from their folio for the first time since they were acquired, for display in this sale", it condemns the decision to break them up. But then, all fine art auctioneers are bachelors, who take the living body of a family collection and sell it off as so many beefsteaks.

It is not only the Butes who are having to sell. The Kedleston Estate Trust is selling, in today's Christie's sale, the set of ivory furniture which George Nathaniel Curzon, the 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, bought when he was Viceroy of India. Anyone who travels to India now finds that Curzon is remembered with affection by the Indians above all other Viceroys because he loved and helped to preserve their Indian antiquities.

I remember the old Lord Swinton, who as a minister helped to re-equip the RAF before 1939, telling me of the characteristically pompous compli-

ance sheets of most of these old families have been drained by a mixture of the income tax, at one time reaching 98 per cent after 1945, and by estate duties, which themselves once reached 85 per cent, and destroyed many family estates. They still go up to 40 per cent. The old private capital of Britain was deliberately destroyed as a political act.

Surveys show that in every county the large landowners, for obvious reasons, were more likely to survive than the small ones. The same is true of the large family collections of works of art, some of which are still amazingly splendid. Yet the damage was done to the whole tradition of family saving and accumulation. In economic terms the British commitment to family saving helped historically to finance the first Industrial Revolution. In social terms it buttressed Britain's stability. The inheritance of private wealth, great or small, was a positive force in British history, and the wealth was often applied to charitable and public uses.

It is on the continent of Europe that one sees the importance of family wealth most clearly. In Switzerland, which was a poor country in the 18th and 19th centuries, there is a widespread tradition of bourgeois family accumulation, not the great collections of great families but good houses, nice furniture, savings in the bank, all of which are handed down from generation to generation. The rest of the European countries have been through the 20th-century nightmares of wars, revolutions, dictatorships, inflations, slumps. They are more conscious than the British of the family as a capital-owning institution which defends the welfare of its members and rebuilds its security after each storm. They also see the education of each successive generation as a vital part of the family capital.

The Bute works of art are symbolic of this tradition, however much they may belong to the grand manner. If the Butes have reached the stage of having to sell, thousands of smaller families will have had to sell up long ago. My own view is that private capital is better used than public, more productive and makes a greater contribution to the development and stability of society. When I see the Maglioli desk sold, and the Sandbys split up, I think that Britain is the worse for the process of decapitalisation which has caused these sales.

William Rees-Mogg

Is Blair sure of himself?

Sarah Baxter

on Labour's lack of confidence

When Tony Blair became Labour leader, he was so young and inexperienced that the Tories hoped to accuse him of lacking the necessary skills to run the country. During the last general election, an L-plate poster questioning Labour's fitness for office under Neil Kinnock was a highly effective negative campaign weapon. But many people are looking forward to a change of government precisely because he is untainted by office.

Besides, the grip he exerts on the Labour Party would appear to confirm that governing Britain will come easily to him. Years of defeat have obviously played a part in grinding down Labour's awkward squad to the extent that only a few jesters like Paul Flynn feel able to speak out. But the most seething malcontents on Labour's benches admit to a certain admiration for Blair. He may not be a socialist, but he knows how to lead.

Yet Blair himself suffers from the occasional twinge of self-doubt. The paradox of his leadership is that he can be brave and bold towards his own party, and yet hesitant when taking on the Tories. The *Road to the Manifesto* policy document, published today, confidently charts new Labour's progress through the slough of despond of tricky policies such as devolution, past the Vanity Fair of tax-and-spend, towards the hoped-for deliverance into No 10. It will be put to party members in a ballot and, for the sake of unity, they will not dare reject it. As such, it is a powerful statement of Blair's authority.

On the other hand, while Blair learnt long ago that it is pointless to hold on to unpopular policies, the constant policy changes, from a referendum on Scottish and Welsh devolution to the scrapping of some of John Smith's promises on employment rights, have been in response to Tory attacks. Though each policy change may be individually justified, cumulatively the process threatens to make the Labour leader look weak, as though he was in thrall to the Tories' agenda instead of setting his own.

Blair is indeed spellbound by the Tories in one vital respect. His Labour colleagues have thrown away so many elections that he believes they have forfeited their right to quibble about the direction of policy and whether or not they have been consulted enough. But the Tories are proven winners. When you have been ruled by them for most of your adult life, they begin to appear as the natural party of government. It is hard to break free of their influence.

There is a generational divide between old Labour, which retains the memory of having won a few elections and governed Britain quite competently, and new Labour. Most of Blair's contemporaries were too young to feel much for Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. If they were active in politics, they tended to be far too left-wing to regard them with anything but contempt.

That same generation, represented by the 1992 Labour intake at Westminster, has gone on to provide many willing converts to new Labour after watching their favourite causes, such as nuclear disarmament, tumble. They are now fresh and eager to win but they have no role model for government unless one counts Baroness Margaret Thatcher, whose name they frequently invoke.

Blair's determination to shed every potentially negative policy identified by the Tories reflects his underconfidence about Labour's ability to win and govern successfully. He has bought all the Conservative talk, which the late John Smith, a former Cabinet minister, used to brush off, that in office Labour could be plagued by rebels and incompetent.

How to govern and to deal with dissent have been very much on his mind. He has been dispatching his Shadow Cabinet to Templeton College in Oxford at weekends so that they can learn the art of government from retired civil servants. The National Executive Committee has been given lessons at the Cranfield School of Management on how to manage, rather than behave like an internal Opposition.

Aided by Peter Mandelson, who has taken a special interest in the Civil Service and the machinery of government, Blair has also been thinking about how to strengthen the Prime Minister's office, so that he can drive the country in the same way that he has driven the Labour Party. But no amount of planning and role-play can make up for experience.

That is why Blair remains "touchingly insecure", as one of his aides put it to me. Aides consult focus groups on his behalf like the oracle. Policies that meet with a whiff of hostility are dumped. When unforeseen crises, like the beef war, blow up, he sticks closely to the line taken by the Government. But in office he will have to take bigger risks and decisions than those required in opposition. It is not the summit of his ambition to be a Mark II Tory leader.

If Blair can transfer the courage he has shown in modernising his party to modernising the country, he could turn out to be a great Prime Minister. He knows that himself. If only he were sure he knew how to pull it off.

Drawn in

THE PRINCESS OF Wales has created a lasting memorial to the relationship between her estranged husband and his companion Camilla Parker Bowles.

Her downstairs loo at Kensington Palace is decorated with unfattering cartoons from national newspapers about the couple.



Diana: cartoon collection

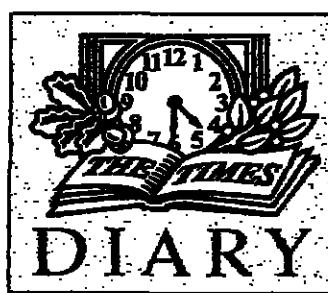
Recent guests to the Palace say that 12 cartoons, all framed, can be admired from the royal throne in the carpeted lavatory. "All the best cartoons from the national papers over the last few years about Charles and Camilla are down there," said one recent visitor.

The cartoons appear to be originals, and pride of place is given to a drawing of the barrel-chested Argentine footballer Maradona taking a drugs test. Underneath, the caption reads: "Charles should be taking the drugs test if he thinks Camilla is good-looking."

The Princess pulled no punches in her *Panorama* interview when questioned about Charles and Camilla. "There were three of us in this marriage," she said. "So it was a bit crowded." But more recently, the Princess has said that she feels sorry for her former rival in love and even that she cares not a hoot if the couple meet up. But Camilla has yet to be invited to share in the Princess's lavatorial humour.

Casket case

INTEREST in the Becket casket is rising, with Sir Andrew Lloyd



Webber the latest to push along to Sotheby's for a shufti. "Not my sort of thing, I'm afraid," he said after seeing it this week. "Its value is historical rather than artistic." His confident tip for a buyer, however, is John Paul Getty. "I reckon the casket will eventually go for between three and four million pounds. And Getty will buy it."

In the pits

GENERATIONS of young Cambridge men learnt how to drink in the impressive premises of the Pitt Club, with its mighty colonnaded entrance. Many were appalled when the club gave up its ground floor to Pizza Express a few years ago. Things have deteriorated further still: the basement has now been taken over by a nightclub and Pitt Club members are forced to

squeeze into the two remaining upstairs rooms.

The Po Na Na nightclub — which has branches in London and Oxford — will throb nightly to Acid Jazz, Garage and House music while the likes of Lord Edward Spencer-Churchill, son of the Duke of Marlborough, defiantly quaff premiers crus upstairs, smoke cigars and play backgammon. "Dreadful, dreadful," moans a former member. "Both Pits would have hated it."

Following the route taken by T.E. Lawrence, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, travelled



"Where's the casket?"

from Jeddah to Aqaba the other day. His arrival in the port town, however, was somewhat less dramatic than Lawrence's. Instead of bellowing camels and cracking rifles, he was greeted by King Hussein of Jordan, who spent the first ten minutes of their conversation commiserating with a bemused Rifkind over England's Euro 96 loss.

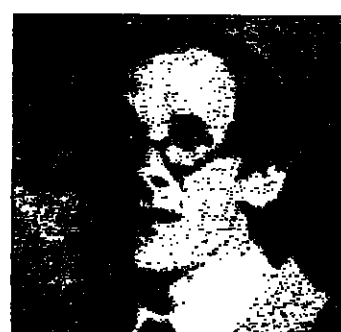
Pipe down

RESIDENTS of Grantchester are steeling themselves for the latest extravaganza from their local novelist, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. He is apparently arranging a late-night military tattoo in his garden at the Old Vicarage to celebrate his forthcoming thirtieth wedding anniversary.

Flamboyant invitations have been dispatched, a military band and pipers arranged. Guests have been instructed not to bring presents to the tournament, but I understand villagers may lob one or two offerings over the fence if proceedings get too rowdy.

Newt territory

RESEARCHING for his part as Gussie Fink-Nottle, new-lantern, for the musical *Jim Fennell* at the

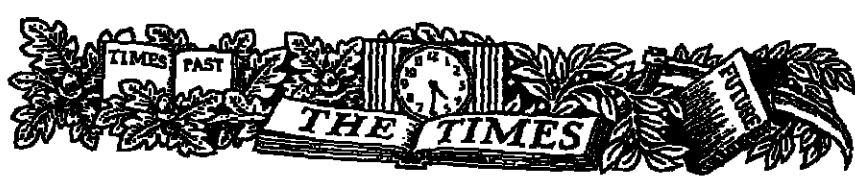


Pond part: Stephen Day

Duke of York's Theatre in London, Stephen Day had to turn no further than his girlfriend of seven months, Susie Paisley, Miss Paisley, a native of North Carolina, is a biologist who is in this country gearing up for a PhD on pond life. "Before we opened in Scarborough, Susie drew me an extremely elaborate diagram explaining the breeding patterns of the newt. The female, she told me, emits a low plaintive sound when she's in the mood. All very useful."

Plans to keep some real live newts for Day's perusal during the show collapsed after rotting leaves in the newtery stank out the props room.

P.H.S.



BREZHNEV'S SHADOW

Loose talk of a national coalition is bad news for Russia

Yesterday should have been an occasion for every Russian to celebrate. In their long history, this was their first chance to decide in genuinely democratic elections which leader they wanted — Boris Yeltsin, who first stood for election in 1991 only as the president of a component part of the Soviet Union, or Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist who wants to restore the Union and much that it stood for besides.

The campaign was vigorously fought, above all by a physically rejuvenated Mr Yeltsin who gave, for all his courting of the nationalist vote, every appearance of having rededicated himself to democracy and economic reforms. He was rewarded by winning most votes in the first round on June 16. His immediate recruitment of General Aleksandr Lebed, the third-placed outsider whose 11 million votes he needed to win, showed Mr Yeltsin at his street-fighting peak. Whatever mystery surrounded the ensuing purge of corrupt Kremlin hardliners, the move was popular. But in a pathetic and worrying anticlimax, at the eleventh hour Mr Yeltsin's renewed ill-health has robbed decision day of its aura of finality.

Throughout the final all-important week Mr Yeltsin went missing. Seen briefly on television, he looked terrible. He has a "sore throat", he has "a cold". These explanations could be correct; but a sore throat should not have prevented him casting his vote in public. A more likely explanation is that after two heart attacks last year, a campaign schedule as punishing as Mr Yeltsin undertook has utterly exhausted him. Either way, Russians are more likely to believe gleeful Communist depictions of Mr Yeltsin as a "painted mummy" and "living corpse" than soothing bromides from his aides. They remember how propaganda hid the truth about a series of geriatric Soviet bosses.

Brezhnev's shade walks. The consequences of a Zyuganov victory would be disastrous for Russia as well as cause for alarm in the West. But if Mr Yeltsin wins, as

he deserves, the aftermath is now anyone's guess. In a country desperate for stable, effective government such uncertainty is worse than demoralising. Unless he bounces back, and within days rather than weeks, court intrigues could dominate a Kremlin temporarily deprived of his charismatic authority. If he were permanently incapacitated Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, would take over. But this would only be temporary; under the Constitution, he would be obliged to call fresh elections within three months.

Disturbingly, both camps were manoeuvring last weekend as though a struggle for the succession might indeed be imminent. Too much significance should not be attached to Mr Zyuganov's renewed promise to form a broad coalition government if elected, possibly retaining Mr Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister. That may have been no more than an opportunistic effort to win over anti-Communist waverers. It is more sinister that Mr Chernomyrdin, a veteran political trimmer, should have begun to hum similar tunes — and more sinister still that General Lebed, who only ten days ago was advertising his hatred of Communism, suddenly called on Sunday for a grand coalition that included them.

There is no middle ground that could reconcile Mr Zyuganov's platform with Mr Yeltsin's reforming agenda. The only rationale for a coalition would be to bypass the Constitution and avoid fresh elections. Westerners might think that preferable to a contest between Mr Zyuganov and General Lebed, whose democratic credentials are far from established. They would be wrong. Mr Yeltsin was right as well as courageous to press ahead with elections, even when everybody expected him to lose. A government of national unity would effectively annul the voters' verdict. Such an act of contempt for law would fatally damage the democracy on which Russia's chances of stability, for all the current anxieties, must ultimately rest.

A NEW ROAD MOVIE

The Tories needed better comics and a kinder audience

Today Labour launches its *Road to the Manifesto* — the programme of policies, soon to be put to a referendum of its members, on which the party will fight the election. On Tuesday the Tories tried to upstage Tony Blair by flourishing before political journalists a spoof Labour manifesto — *The Road to Ruin* — which made mockery of Labour's "stakeholder" quotations and policy pronouncements.

Negative campaigning of this type is a perfectly legitimate, if not particularly attractive, way of scaring voters back to the fold. If the Tories can succeed in defining voter frustration against Labour policies rather than their own, they will have achieved a great deal. Although there was much tut-tutting yesterday about bringing politics into disrepute, Labour is likely to engage in similar techniques, warning voters of NHS privatisation, incarceration vouchers and compulsory competitive baby-sitting.

The manner and timing of a negative campaign is crucial, however. If the aim of Tuesday's effort was to revive Tory hearts, the *Road to Ruin* idea cannot be judged a first-night triumph. It is more than six months now since *The Times* began to articulate a strategy to maximise the Conservatives' slim chance of electoral success. We said that the party should admit a little contrition ("Yes it hurt, yes it worked"); we said it could exploit a rising "feel-good" factor by reminding voters, ideally through poster messages rather than its discredited politicians, of how well-off they had become. Towards the end the party might introduce the message: "Don't let Labour ruin it."

This seemed to have a certain logic and, for a while, the Tories seemed to agree. Tuesday's launch, however, turned this timetable upside down. The last message couched as "New Labour, New Danger"

and accompanied by the spoof manifesto) was hastily introduced well before the "feel-good" factor, or any sort of gratitude towards the Government, had had a chance to become entrenched.

The reasoning was clear enough. With just ten months until the last possible date for an election, the Tories had managed to claw back only a tiny portion of Labour's huge lead. Party managers recognised that defeatism in their own ranks was still their biggest enemy. They dared not approach this October's conference, the last before the election, without an uplift in the polls. The beef war could have been a catalyst; England's football success seemed to have been more effective. Either way, they needed much more than the small amount of momentum that they had gained.

Tuesday was the day for desperate measures. The delivery method that they chose, however, was less than skilful. Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney have many political skills but aping Bob Hope is not among them. It is easy to win a laugh from a doggedly loyal audience at Tory party conference; political journalists, by contrast, are paid to be hardened and sceptical. They are the worst possible audience on whom to try lengthy jokes. So why launch a long mocking joke at Labour's expense on the people who are least likely to see the funny side?

The Road to Ruin contains some perfectly useful campaigning material. Like past guides for candidates, it will come in handy on the doorsteps. The fiasco of its first night need not overshadow the rest of its run. But it surely should have gone straight out to candidates, agents and canvassers. That sort of misjudgment will do nothing to raise morale among the defeatist activists who are almost as big a problem for the Government as the leader of the Labour Party.

THE STONE GOES HOME

Scotland already has its special sovereignty and symbolism

Seven centuries after Edward Longshanks wrenched the Stone of Scone from feeble Scottish hands, the ancient symbol of Celtic kingship is to return. The Queen has allowed the Stone of Destiny, which underpinned her own Coronation, to make its second journey northwards this century. The first was a self-conscious prank by student nationalists; this occasion should be a self-confident celebration of Scotland's flourishing status within the Union.

Although stolen from Scone by England's Edward I the stone was not hewn from Scotland's hills. Its origins are easily as foreign and even more exotic than the House of Hanover. Originally believed to have been the pillow on which the biblical Jacob dreamt of a ladder ascending to Heaven, it is commonly held to have been the symbol of Celtic nationhood carried westwards as the Gaels migrated across the continent to what became Caledonia. The "Stone of Destiny" became Caledonia. The "Stone of Destiny" arrived at Scone Abbey only after resting a while in Iona, Dunstaffnage and Dunkeld.

The stone's 700 years in Westminster Abbey have thus been the most stable in its history — coinciding with Scotland's own development from lawless land to a culturally assertive and economically confident partner in an evolving Union. Ian Hamilton,

the ringleader of the student pranksters who spirited it briefly back home, has written eloquently of being moved in his childhood by his mother's recitation of a rhyme rendered from the Gaelic: "Unless the fates shall faceless prove, and profits voice be vain, wherever the sacred stone is found, the Scottish race shall reign." But while Scotland's heart fluttered with thoughts of freedom, its head was turned to realism. Short months after the stone left Westminster Abbey, Scotland helped to return a Unionist Government to Parliament.

The return of the stone is the Queen's gift. But the inspiration appears to have come from one of the most vigorous of her ministers, the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth. Mr Forsyth has been in the Cabinet barely a year, but he has shown the energy and imagination of a Walter Scott in using the institutions of the Union to speak to Scottish aspirations, while ensuring that Scotland benefits from England's collective strength. Mr Forsyth has a difficult struggle ahead convincing his countrymen that changes in the constitution are not necessary to secure improvements in their lives. The return of the stone may help, by showing that Scotland does not also need sovereignty returned to see its special nature respected.

Asylum benefits cuts defended

From Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield (Conservative), and others

Sir, The Bishop of Liverpool and others (letter, July 1) may properly challenge the moral basis for the Government's determination to stop state benefits for people who have been refused political asylum. The challenge can and should be met.

Thousands of ordinary UK benefit claimants are refused benefits because they do not qualify. Nobody has argued that they should be able to claim benefit simply on the basis of a pending appeal. Why should those who have been refused asylum and then appealed be treated differently?

Ten times as many asylum-seekers claimed benefit in 1994 as in 1989. More than nine out of ten claims were not supported on appeal. The cost was £300 million per year. What moral basis is there to levy taxes, including on the working poor, to fund benefits for those who have no grounds to stay here?

Many asylum claimants have gained entry to the UK by saying they were students, businessmen or tourists when they arrived and by convincing the immigration authorities they would not become a burden on the taxpayer.

Claiming asylum, fully funded by social security and legal aid, had become the latest device to avoid deportation. We favour the Home Secretary's position — full and generous support for those who justifiably claim asylum on arrival.

Yours etc,
NORMAN FOWLER,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
BERNARD JENKIN,
NICHOLAS SCOTT,
PETER THURNHAM,
House of Commons,
July 3.

From Mr David J. Kidd

Sir, The Anglican Bishop of Liverpool and others refer approvingly to the moralising in a recent Court of Appeal decision rejecting government benefit cuts. They fail to appreciate that there are duties higher than that of charitable giving to the poor.

No one has the authority to give away someone else's money to the poor, which is what judicially ordained benefits mean. Nor does anyone who has not made adequate provision for himself and his family have any right because of these prior obligations to give even his own money away to the poor. Charitable benefits extorted by taxation nevertheless compel those who aspire to be good Samaritans must dedicate themselves to the hard task of becoming rich, like the original good Samaritan — a wealthy man. The 18th-century preacher, John Wesley, urged his hearers: "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can." Modern churches address state officials and say: "Tax all you can, borrow all you can, set up the biggest social security department you can." It is an ugly substitute.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. KIDD (tax partner),
Citroen Wells,
(Chartered accountants),
Devonshire House,
1 Devonshire Street, W1,
July 3.

Federalism in Europe

From Mr Richard Laming

Sir, For John Redwood to accuse Helmut Kohl of living in the past (article, June 26) is truly breathtaking, for it is Mr Redwood who seems to believe Europe is still in the 19th century.

The reality of power on our continent is this. The alternative to federalism is, as it has always been, hegemony. The largest states dominate over the smaller. Since 1945, we have had the benign hegemony of the United States in the western part and the oppressive hegemony of the USSR in the east. The latter has collapsed, the former is unmistakably scaling down. Something must take their place.

Chancellor Kohl understands this very well. For him, the defining moment in recent German history was the devastation of 1945. He knows the consequences of attempts to create new hegemonies, and that such attempts must be prevented. A European settlement based on democracy and equality is the only way to ensure that we never go to war with each other again.

In the present EU, Germany has 80 million people out of 370 million, 99 MEPs out of 626, 10 votes in the Council out of 97. In no sense does that offer the possibility of bullying, as long as we develop EU institutions that prevent it. That is what Chancellor Kohl's federalism would achieve, if only the British would raise their sights from atavistic prejudice and look anew at the modern world.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAMING
(Director),
Federal Union,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1,
July 1.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Care urged on constitutional change

From Sir Christopher Foster

Sir, Bryan Gould's warnings from New Zealand (article, June 27) are timely given the strong prospect of constitutional change here.

Throughout the world nations are fundamentally altering how governments work. Privatisation, contracting out, competition, internal markets, the adoption of private-sector management techniques — collectively called the new public management — have revolutionised the State.

Inescapable pressures in public expenditure and taxation have made all this inevitable and by now irreversible. Moreover, nothing else has the potential for the quality improvement and cost savings public services need.

In this transformation, New Zealand has been the leader, the most widely admired and the most logical. Britain, not far behind in the extent of change, is further behind in its logical development.

Nevertheless, here is Gould telling us that the New Zealand people, suddenly waking up to the dangers of an all-powerful executive imbued with conviction politics, has adopted an ill-thought-out constitutional remedy of proportional representation which, in his opinion, will make matters worse.

No doubt a parliament for Scotland and an assembly for Wales are now a political necessity. But before we rush into these and other constitutional changes, let us examine carefully the workings of our complex and altered State. There is ample evidence of how its malaises have increased and altered in recent years, in large part because the Government has not thought through how the new public management, allied to the decline of local government power and the multiplication of quangos, has changed the distribution of power within the constitution and eroded the accountability of ministers to Parliament.

(Within its ambit, the voluminous evidence of Sir Richard Scott has many examples of this erosion at work.) What has gone wrong is that, as in New Zealand and elsewhere, govern-

ments have assumed these changes had no material consequences for the existing, working constitution.

If we spatchcock constitutional change into an already groggy, weakened framework without extensive analysis of its effect on the whole machinery of government we risk making bad worse, as in New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. FOSTER,
6 Holland Park Avenue, W11,
June 27.

From the High Commissioner for New Zealand

Sir, My friend Bryan Gould suggests that under New Zealand's new proportional representation (PR) voting system "the post-election situation will be uncertain, possibly unstable".

We accept that there may be a period of uncertainty as the new system beds down, particularly as parties jockey for coalition partners after the result is known. But that is not the same as instability.

As Mr Gould says the public voted by referendum for the PR system to provide a counterbalance to political power. That is why the public will react in the unlikely event that politicians would render it unstable.

Under the new system electors have two votes, one for the candidate and one for the party. It is the party vote which governs the overall composition of Parliament. The public will have no difficulty making sensible choices.

Germany and Ireland, both of which have a PR system, have stable political environments. Why not also New Zealand, which has been renowned for its political stability in the past? Investors need have no fear of taking advantage of New Zealand's sound economic climate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLLINGE,
New Zealand High Commissioner,
New Zealand House,
Haymarket, SW1,
June 27.

Solving problem of cowboy builders

From the Earl of Lytton

Sir, Your timely report of June 14 on the evils of cowboy builders has generated some lively and expert comment, which is very welcome (letters, June 20, 26). As a practising chartered surveyor, I am all too familiar with the misery that arises from shoddy or disputed work, and I applaud the work of Ronald Bernstein, QC, and his committee at Justice.

In my experience, there is often a poor understanding by small contractors of the client's requirements or the work involved. This is matched by consumers who are ignorant of good building standards or are unsure what work is required to meet their needs.

I have known dishonest consumers as well as crooked builders so, although I agree with the concept of an insurance-backed warranty of good workmanship (however defined), I remain to be convinced that this alone is a guarantee of satisfaction or that it would be free from risk of abuse or anti-competitive behaviour. Many excellent, but small and potentially vulnerable jobbing builders make it a

matter of professional pride to put right, without charge, any defects in their work and good practice should be encouraged.

Insurance apart, there is a need for a speedy, cost-effective, locally accessible and binding form of dispute resolution handled by those possessed of the technical knowledge and ability to weigh the arguments; at the same time the parties should be kept out of the courts, save for important legal matters. The Party Wall Etc Bill, which I sponsored in this House and is now in the House of Commons, contains such a means of dispute resolution and is analogous to the procedures in many commercial rent-review clauses.

Bullying tactics by cowboy builders and the taking of pecuniary advantage by some consumers might be less rife if there were an inescapable requirement to justify the position in the forum of an effective dispute-resolution procedure.

Yours faithfully,
LYTTON,
House of Lords,
June 26.

Own-brand medicines

From Mr N. I. Cooper

Sir, Let me assure Mrs McCree of the National Pharmaceutical Association (letter, June 25) that Asda, by launching its own range of medicines, is not "purposely confusing... the free market pricing of own labels and maintaining prices of branded medicines".

Because of resale price maintenance the public are paying double what they would in a free market for everyday healthcare aids. We estimate that excess profits amount to a "health tax" of £300 million a year, with only 10 per cent of this going to neighbourhood pharmacies — the remainder

boosts the profits of drugs manufacturers, wholesalers and national retail chains.

We agree that easy access for all to local pharmacy services is essential, but price fixing is not the way to achieve it — indeed, many people are currently denied access to branded medicines and vitamins because of high prices. Achieving a more equitable distribution of the NHS subsidy and ensuring fees to local chemists are paid on time would be a fairer way to ensure the survival of local chemists.

Yours sincerely,
N. I. COOPER (corporate counsel),
Asda Stores Ltd, Asda House,
Southbank, Great Wilson Street,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

UK party's aims

From the Leader of the UK Independence Party

Sir, The unfortunate juxtaposition of Richard Wilson's cartoon of June 27 above the headline "Rival party threatens Goldsmith" may have led some of your readers to believe that the UK Independence Party is a vehicle of the "tabloid nationalists" which the cartoon was attacking. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The UK Independence Party is not "anti-Europe" as your report says, and abhors all xenophobia. Every recruit must sign up to the principles enshrined in the party's constitution, namely that we have "no prejudices against foreigners or lawful minorities".

On the other hand, the party is absolutely opposed to UK membership of the European Union and the surrender of our parliamentary sovereignty and democratic rights to Brussels. We look to Europe for our allies, not our masters. We would simply exchange membership of the EU for a free-trade agreement.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED,
UK Independence Party,
80 Regent Street, W1.

Alan Ladd's napkin

From Mr Euan Lloyd

Sir, Though true that the late Cubby Broccoli's friendship with Howard Hughes indirectly led to the making of *The Red Beret* in 1952 (obituary, June 29), the unpredictable Hughes tore up the commitment to finance it in a moment of pique, leaving Broccoli and Irving Allen high and dry.

It was Alan Ladd who rescued them, honouring his earlier promise to make the film if finance and distribution could be found, by writing on a paper napkin. Cubby took the napkin to the equally notorious film baron Harry Cohn, President of Columbia Pictures, who made available \$1 million, with a stipulation that it be filmed in England to qualify for the film industry's subsidy on British-made films.

The Red Beret was a big success and was the forerunner of 14 Columbia-financed films made in Britain, all produced by Broccoli and Allen.

Yours faithfully,
EUAN LLOYD,
c/o Pinewood Studios,
Iwer,
Buckinghamshire SL0 0NH,
July 1.

A French lesson on Becket casket

From the Canon Chancellor of Peterborough

Sir, Tomorrow, Thursday, may be the nation's last chance to secure the Becket casket. Sir Stephen Hastings has already pointed out (letter, June 26) why this splendid reliquary is of especial significance to Peterborough Cathedral.

Your readers may be interested to know, therefore, that in the Musée de Cluny in Paris (now the French National Museum of Medieval Art) there is a small Limoges chalice very similar to the one from Peterborough. However, it is only one quarter the size, so that there is space for only two attacking knights, and no room at all for the two monks who raise their hands in horror at the deed.

The Cluny chalice depicts Becker's funeral on the lid, but cannot provide room for the martyr's soul to be carried up to heaven on angels' wings, as on the Peterborough one. Whereas the crest of the Cluny chalice has only a row of keyholes, the Peterborough one is embellished with cabochon rock-crystals and blue-enamelled medallions; and the appearance of the Cluny chalice is dulled with age, whereas the one from Peterborough sparkles almost like new. There is nothing like it in England, and nothing so fine in France.

When visiting the Musée de Cluny a few days ago I noticed that their chalice was purchased for the museum as recently as 1985. If the French can save their patrimony, ought not we to do the same?

Yours etc,
JACK HIGHAM,
Canon Chancellor of Peterborough,
Canonry House, Minster Precincts,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
July 3.

From Mr John Condon

Sir, It has been very pleasing to see how the imminent sale of the Becket casket at Sotheby's has led to scholarly debate about Thomas Becket himself and his significance in our history (leading articles, June 28 and July 1; features, June 28, 29; letters, June 20, 26, 29 and July 2, 3). Its informed and intelligent treatment of matters historical has long been one of the glories of *The Times*.

Not for the first time I find myself persuaded by the incisiveness of Simon Jenkins's contrarian view. However, he is wrong to attribute to Becket any claim to select the king's heir. Henry, "the young king", was crowned during his father's lifetime by the Archbishop of York, in disregard of the rights of the see of Canterbury. As Henry Mayr-Harting argues ("Hold on to Becket's casket", June 28), the defence of the prerogatives of the church of Canterbury, of which the coronation of the monarch was one, was Becker's chief motivation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CONDON,
8 Leamington Avenue,
West Didsbury, Manchester.

Divided by sport

From Mr John G. Tate

Sir, I was saddened to read Dr Jennifer Sommerville (letter, June 29; see also letters, June 28) saying that she and many of her fellow Scots felt compelled to root for Germany in last Wednesday's Euro 96 semi-final.

As a Northumbrian I appreciate more than most the animosity which has existed for centuries between our two nations but, Sir, surely this is going too far. Of course, had it been Scotland playing in the semi-final we English, soles that we are, would have been cheering them on.

Dr Sommerville says that many Scots yearn for devolution or even complete independence for Scotland. If the powers-that-be followed Mr Peter M. Cooke's suggestion (letter, June 29) that all UK citizens be allowed to take part in a referendum on the subject I could guarantee her an overwhelming majority in favour.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN G. TATE,
4 High View, Hadley on the Hill,
Stockfield, Northumberland.

From Colonel Richard Graham

Sir, Dr Sommerville implies that we English would be surprised to learn that many Scots were rooting for Germany. Far from it; we always assume that any team opposing England would be cheered by most Scots, even if it were an all-time international XI with Pol Pot in goal, Mussolini in midfield and Radovan Karadzic as substitute.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GRAHAM,
Veuve du Guet, Rue de la Lande,
Albecq, Castel, Guernsey.

Oh mistress mine!

From Mr Ian A. Page

Sir, What will the boys of Westminster School call their new woman house-master (Diary, June 28)?

When I was a pupil at King Edward VI, Chelmsford, during the war, women teachers replaced the men who had joined the forces. We had to address them as Sir.

Yours faithfully,
I. A. PAGE,
Pigeon House, 9 Coombe Ridings,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
July 2.

LORD FRASER OF KILMORACK

for passengers to pass a
ard would be very much
at a great rate of speed
some indication given of
two causes of disaster to
sure to keep a good look
too great a rate of speed;
impressed upon all those
consider such questions
was that in both those
re should be taken when
ing ice was reported . . .

NEWS

Yeltsin heading for victory

President Yeltsin was last night heading for victory in Russia's first elections for a head of state, after he established a clear lead against Gennadi Zyuganov, his Communist rival.

Voters turned out in their millions to back the ailing incumbent for a second term and reject the communist desire to turn the country back to the days of Soviet rule. **Pages 1, 17, 21**

Scots win back Stone of Scone

The Stone of Scone, the talisman of Scottish nationhood stolen by Edward I of England 700 years ago, is to be returned home. The Stone—a 336lb lump of yellow sandstone known in its homeland as the Stone of Destiny—will be taken from Westminster Abbey, where it has been used in the coronation of some thirty British monarchs, and placed in an "appropriate setting", possibly Edinburgh Castle. **Pages 1, 3, 21**

Major pay dilemma

John Major was confronted with an acute dilemma after an independent body recommended big pay increases for MPs and ministers ranging from £9,000 for backbenchers to £34,000 for Cabinet ministers. **Page 1**

Exercise at ease

The Army has banned new recruits from working out in their spare time. Commanders are alarmed by the number who are hurting themselves when forced to exercise vigorously. **Page 8**

Irish MP threatened

An Irish MP who has campaigned against drug dealers was threatened with a week after the murder of journalist Veronica Guerin. **Page 9**

Anyone for Cliff?

Sir Cliff Richard entertained spectators at Wimbledon with an impromptu concert on Centre Court yesterday after rain stopped play. **Pages 1, 48**

Winning ways

The German football team has taken out a full-page advertisement in *The Times* to thank the people of England and the football authorities for their hospitality during Euro 96. **Page 1**

Legal cuts

Nearly all the 2,000 prosecutors of the Crown Prosecution Service and about 1,000 senior administrative staff have been invited to apply for voluntary redundancy. Only a few are expected to be accepted. **Page 2**

£10m for charity

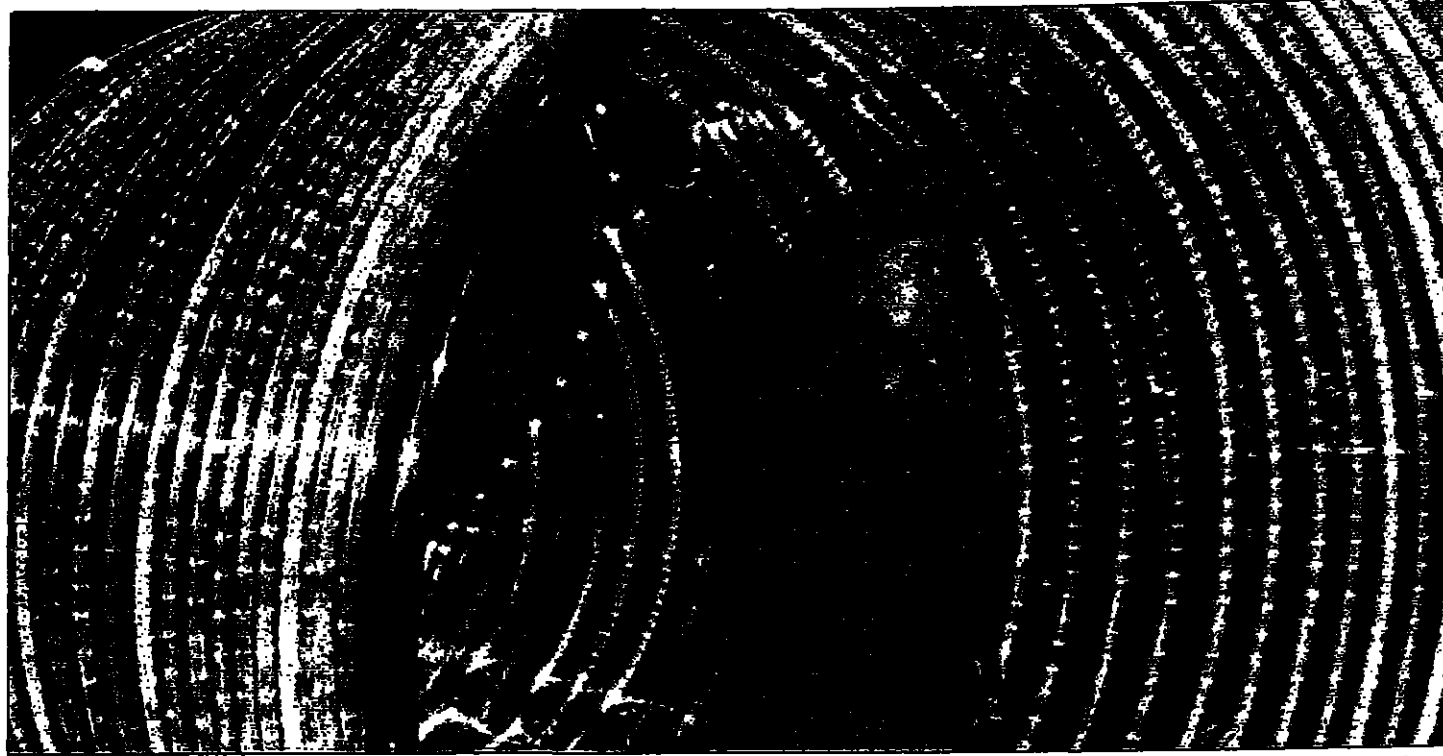
A secretive expatriate is to donate nearly £10 million to causes close to her heart, both famous and obscure. **Page 2**

Mandela for Brixton

A walkabout in Brixton will be the highlight of Nelson Mandela's state visit next week. The programme throws convention to the winds. **Page 6**

RIP with tender memories

Rail enthusiasts who pass to the great siding in the sky are to be given the chance of a last resting place within feet of passing steam trains. More than 50 rail buffs have already booked plots at a 1½-acre graveyard above a railway cutting beside a preserved line in Derbyshire. For about £1,500, enthusiasts can have their coffin carried by a locomotive to their grave. **Page 5**



The Queen walks through a light tunnel yesterday after opening the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow as part of Royal Week.

Power struggle Sainsbury

Refusing to pay part of its electricity bill in an unprecedented protest against electricity pricing. **Page 25**

Rail disaster: British Rail

ten-year dream of building an international freight business to compete with long distance road hauliers has ended in financial disaster at a £500 million cost to the taxpayer. **Page 25**

GEC profit: In Lord Weinstock's

last set of results as managing director, GEC just missed making £1 billion. **Pages 25 & 29**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index

fell 11.6 points to close at 3714.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from \$6.7 to \$6.8 after a rise from \$1.5562 to \$1.5590 and from DM2.3759 to DM2.3776. **Page 28**

Tennis: Rain at Wimbledon kept

Tim Henman off the court in his men's singles quarter-final match against Todd Martin. Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, lost the opening two sets against Richard Krajicek. **Page 48**

Cricket: England plan to thwart

India's ambition of a unique comeback in a three-Test series in this country by winning the final match at Trent Bridge. **Page 48**

Football: Graeme Souness is back

in English football after Southampton appointed him their new manager on a three-year contract in place of Dave Merrington. **Page 48**

Athletics: Frankie Fredericks

missed the world 100 metres record by a hundredth of a second when he ran 9.86 sec. **Page 43**

New films: Brian De Palma twists

the audience around his little finger in his cheeky thriller *Mission: Impossible*, while William Blake (aka Johnny Depp) is on the run in Jim Jarmusch's languorous western *Dead Man*. **Page 33**

Hollywood hopeful: Clare Bayley

has won this year's *Times* Screenwriting Competition with a "thriller road movie" set in Finland. **Page 34**

Celtic charmer: After starring in

Riverdance, Michael Flatley strikes out with his own spectacular, *Lord of the Dance*. **Page 35**

Second time lucky: Alan

Aykuboum and Andrew Lloyd Webber revisit their 1975 musical flop and turn it into the theatrical success *By Jeeves*. **Page 35**

National jokes: Brian Mawhinney

and Michael Heseltine have resorted to a sit-down comedy routine but when politicians turn to humour, Joe Joseph turns off. **Page 19**

Throwaway lines: What, or who,

do you hurl when you are angry? Giles Coren discovers that it may depend on your class. **Page 19**

BODY AND MIND

Speak easy: Researchers have developed a computer program to help them to establish which factors are likely to turn a child into a stammerer. **Page 18**

TRAVEL

Early sale: Next year's summer holidays go on sale today, even before the start of this year's peak season. **Pages 38 & 39**

BOOKS

Fictional lives: Paul Theroux's novel gives its author an alternative history; Lynne Truss envisions Alfred, Lord Tennyson's holidays. Plus *The Best of Young American Novelists* and Robert Burns's life and loves. **Pages 36, 37**

Russian political life is far too

complicated to signal in advance the winner of the war of (Yeltsin's) succession. Power will be assumed by the winner of a ferocious struggle between self-proclaimed civil and military heirs. *ABC, Madrid.*

OPINION

Brezhnev's shadow

Mr Yeltsin was right as well as courageous to press ahead with elections, even when everybody expected him to lose. A government of national unity would effectively annul the verdict. Such an act would fatally damage the democracy on which Russia's chances of stability must rest. **Page 21**

A new Road Movie

Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney have many political skills, but aping Bob Hope is not among them. It is easy to win a laugh from a loyal audience at Tory party conference; political journalists are paid to be sceptical. **Page 21**

The stone goes home

The return of the stone may help by showing that Scotland does not also need sovereignty returned to see its special nature respected. **Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I dislike being reminded of the decline of Britain's national ability to maintain what earlier generations could afford to buy. It is, I suppose, the collectors' equivalent to the football fans' feeling when England lost against Germany. **Page 20**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

We in Scotland will benefit from a warmer, wetter atmosphere, where rich crops and the chance of exporting billions of gallons of water will transform the economy. **Page 20**

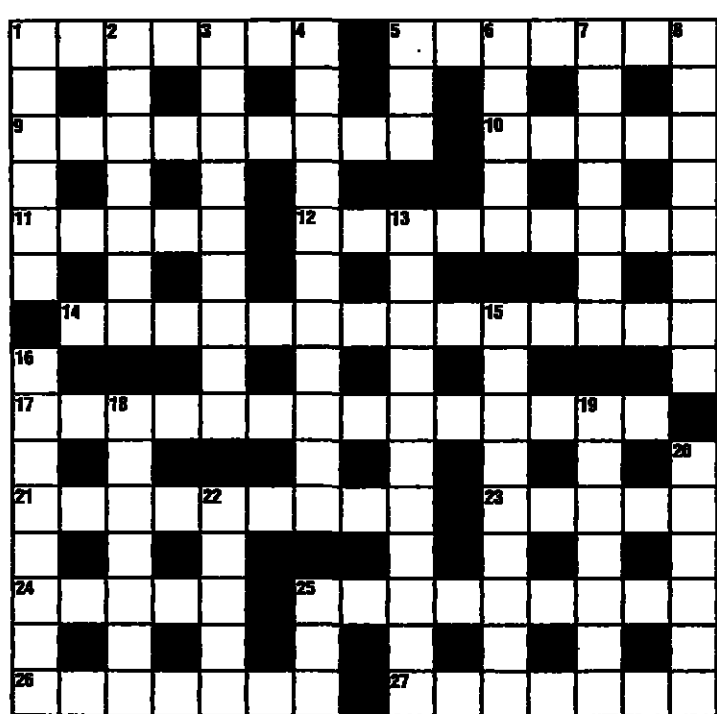
JENNIFER

Lord Fraser of Kilmorack, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party organisation; Nicholas John, draughtsman of English National Opera; Harry Hearder, Professor of Modern History, University of Wales College of Cardiff; Walter Guevara Arze, Bolivian politician. **Page 23**

JENNIFER

Tory MPs defend asylum benefits cuts; warning on constitutional changes; Becket's casket; cowboy builders. **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,211



- ACROSS**
- One slip ruined character (7).
 - Man given silver cup as prize (7).
 - Bearing in car evenly adjusted (9).
 - Slough traffic skirting motorway (5).
 - Country having India, Nepal, Afghanistan providing entry points (5).
 - A Lowry, for instance, that ultimately has point (9).
 - Practice how to conceal cards? (4,4,2).
 - Sees yacht abeam — manoeuvres according to circumstances (2,3,4,3,2).
 - Watches the way in which commercial's presented make-up (3-6).
 - Cause embarrassment to sailor like Henry (5).
 - Main ring may see entrance of equestrian at first (5).
 - A little coffee set is made to be broken (9).
 - Flourish on cool food (7).
 - Place to grow plant that is tender and rosy on the outside (7).
- DOWN**
- Increase the wealth of Henri Christophe to some extent (6).
 - Cross sailor has to overcome anger (7).
 - Tomato has nothing on fruit (4-5).
 - It's not usual seeing one endlessly remain covered in ointment (11).
 - Simpleton always sought after justice (3).
 - Expenses of constructing road in island (5).
 - Bill's in mountain-climbing club, say (7).
 - Cheap sheepfold near city (8).
 - Cleaning lady who wears out bishop, perhaps (11).
 - White flower covered by rising lake (9).
 - What mimic does suddenly become popular (5,3).
 - In that article restraint is necessary (7).
 - Club that's after money (7).
 - Carefree shout conceals a lot of care (6).
 - Man upset woman's beauty preparation (5).
 - Colouring of stamp being discussed (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,210

CHICKPEA GAOLER
ERAMAEES
IMPACT OILSKINS
LSTNLS
NIGHTST UPURN
NIRHMRA
AERAN GODPARENT
NANAFHORE
GRUDENESS SALAD
ENGLUEO
SOLVES NAVYBLUB
AVIDOLA
VICTORIA KNOTTY
EK OYE CII
RHYTHM SIDERICK

FOR THE LATEST REGION BY REGION FORECAST, 24 HOURS

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wales, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
West Midlands	706
North East	707
North West	708
Yorkshire & the Humber	709
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North East	719
North West	720
Yorkshire & the Humber	721
East of England	722
London & the South East	723
West Midlands	724
North East	725
North West	726
Yorkshire & the Humber	727

FOR THE LATEST AA TRAFFIC/ROADWORKS INFORMATION, 24 HOURS

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29
The debate must be wrested from sado-monetarists



TRAVEL 38, 39
Why the cruise boom is coming to London



SPORT 41-48
Clement Freud finds food for thought at Henley

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook THURSDAY JULY 4 1996

Sainsbury withholds payment over electricity bill

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
Sainsbury, the supermarket group, is refusing to pay part of its electricity bill in an unprecedented protest against electricity pricing. The step, which theoretically could lead to Sainsbury's supplies being cut, is set to be followed by other big power users in what could be a large-scale rebellion against the electricity industry.

The electricity pool, the operator of trading and settlement for the industry, has blamed the higher charges on the rise in numbers of businesses buying electricity competitively and on the need to recover costs from previous years when too low a charge was made. Ian Taylor, head of Sainsbury's energy team, is withholding payment of the "under-recovered" element of the bill which will amount to about £140,000 across the group's sites.

Mr Taylor said the charge had been raised by the pool without consultation and that payment should not be required to make amends for under-recovered costs. All the major energy users groups, including the Utility Buyers Forum of which Sainsbury's is a member, have called for the pool to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They complain that it is unaccountable to customers. Labour recently said it was considering abolishing the pool to trigger more competition.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2714.1	(-11.8)
Yield	4.09%	
FT-SE All share	1858.36	(-5.18)
Nikkei	22379.02	(+31.05)
Dow Jones	5897.11	(-23.27)
S&P Composite	871.72	(-1.88)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	88%	(8.94%)
Yield	6.98%	(6.94%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
Life long gil	106.75	(106.75)
Future (Sep)	106.75	(106.75)
STERLING		
New York	1.5995	(1.5984)
London	1.5990	(1.5982)
DM	2.3777	(2.3765)
FF	6.0390	(6.0333)
SFR	1.3688	(1.3680)
Yen	172.28	(171.38)
£ Index	86.8	(86.7)
US \$ DOLLAR		
London	1.5220	(1.5205)
DM	5.1460	(5.1412)
FF	1.2523	(1.2507)
Yen	110.28	(110.38)
£ Index	97.4	(97.4)
Tokyo close Yen	110.40	
EURO/STERLING		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$18.70	(\$18.55)
London close	\$98.25	(\$98.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

BR writes off £500m freight failure

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH RAIL'S ten-year dream of building an international freight business to compete with long distance road hauliers has ended in financial disaster at a cost of £500 million to the taxpayer. John Welsby, chairman, announced yesterday that BR was writing off its £300 million investment in Railfreight Distribution (RfD) and £200 million of contractual payments to Eurotunnel that it will not be able to recover.



Lord Weinstock, outgoing managing director of GEC, the industrial and defence company ahead in its latest results

Weinstock sees GEC hit £981m

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE last results from GEC before Lord Weinstock steps down as managing director were boosted by strong performance in electronic and power systems and in telecommunications. The industrial and defence giant built up by Lord Weinstock increased pre-tax profits to £981 million, from £891 million. The first contribution from VSEL helped to lift profits in electronic systems and defence by 42 per cent, to £291 million. However, although the VSEL acquisition increased GEC-Marconi's profits, it also diluted the group's net financial income, which fell by about 10 per cent in the year, to £151 million.

RfD was set up in 1986 as the freight arm of BR's Channel Tunnel operations in partnership with the French state railways. It has been hit by a series of setbacks and has failed to capture more than a fraction of the international freight market, except on routes to Spain and Italy. It was forecast to carry 6 million tonnes in its first year of operation compared with the 3 million tonnes it achieved last year, its second trading year since the opening of the Channel Tunnel. Mr Welsby, unveiling what are likely to be the last set of BR trading accounts, said RfD, which runs freight trains through the Channel Tunnel to continental Europe, lost £58.6 million last year on turnover of £70.4 million. It has been criticised for offering an unreliable and inflexible service compared with road hauliers but has also been crippled by high Channel Tunnel access charges, a freight price war on the Channel crossing and a French rail workers strike last year. It was also forced to continue to use unreliable diesel trains even though BR had spent £60 million on a fleet of new electric trains because the freight line from the Channel Tunnel was not electrified in time. Each trailer load of freight carried by RfD is charged about £600 to pass through the Tunnel, under a minimum usage contract agreed with Eurotunnel in 1986. Road hauliers charge around £1,900 for

Newcastle Utd poised for £160m flotation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JASON NISSE

NEWCASTLE UNITED is close to joining its rival Manchester United on the Stock Exchange in a float that will value the football club at £160 million. Owned by Sir John Hall, the club is hoping to raise funds to build a new stadium with seating for up to 80,000. Newcastle has appointed NatWest Markets as broker. The flotation would make Newcastle the second most valuable British football club. Manchester United has a current market value of £268 million, while Tottenham, the other fully quoted Premier side, is worth just under £100 million. Chelsea recently

The Perfect Travelling Companion ...

THE DALVEY VOYAGER CLOCK

Time for one last cocktail as the Imperial Airways flying boat waits at the jetty for the flight to Mombasa ...

Whatever your destination, you can recapture the romance of travelling in style with this elegant and reliable travel alarm clock.

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Delivery: please allow 28 days T1M 41

RJB chief makes £1.2m in buy-back

BY OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD BUDGE, chief executive of RJB Mining, Britain's largest coalmining company, yesterday earned an instant £1.2 million profit as part of a £95 million share buy-back he put in motion. He sold part of his 2.3 per cent stake in RJB which has more than doubled in value since flotation 18 months ago. RJB, which took over the bulk of British Coal's mines, bought back 10 per cent of the total share capital after announcing pre-tax profits of £173 million (£16.1 million), on turnover of £1.46 billion (£1.6 billion) as a result of taking over the British Coal pits.



Budge: instant profit

Top TSB director set to leave Lloyds

BY ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the most senior directors of TSB, the high street clearer that became part of Lloyds Bank in December, is expected to leave the merged group today. John Elbourne, former deputy chief executive of TSB and head of its unit trust arm, who is now the director responsible for retail financial services, is said to be "very disenchanted" with the rigid structure within Lloyds Bank which he is understood to feel is "at the expense of customers". It is not clear how much Mr Elbourne, who joined TSB from Legal & General in 1991, will receive on his departure. After the merger between the two banks late last year, Mr Elbourne did not become a main board director of the enlarged banking group. Mr Elbourne's expected departure follows that earlier this week of Peter Bureau, a general manager of Lloyds Bank, who is leaving to become the new chief executive of National Savings for a salary of £96,000 and a bonus worth up to £14,000, dependent on reaching certain performance targets set by Treasury ministers. The job had been difficult to fill. It had been advertised extensively and the salary increased.

Pennington, page 27

□ Big consumers' electric shock □ Too much information is good for you □ RJB's surprising turn of speed

Still waters run murky

IF YOU or I choose not to pay our electricity bills, a man comes around and cuts us off. If Sainsbury or Marks & Spencer tries the same trick they have rather better luck, which is probably as well given all those TV dinners sitting in their chill cabinets.

Sensitive readers should now lie down and wrap a wet towel around their heads, because it will become necessary to discuss the "pool" or free market in electricity. The people that understand the labyrinthine workings of this market are few. Those that support it are fewer, and falling by the day.

Labour may abolish it. The pool's own chief executive is in apparent despair at its structure. Now Sainsbury is getting bolshie and will not pay part of bills passed on to the grocer by the pool, and at least one other large industrial user has done the same. M&S and others are thinking about it.

These bills — a charge levied on industrial customers to enable them to buy electricity in the competitive market — rocketed from £200 to £299 last year, and then to £565 this year. Next year they are set to go even higher. For large companies with several hundred meters that is no small charge.

But what is really irking the

large energy users is that a large part of the charge — which is billed by the companies who supply the power and goes from them back to the pool — will go to make amends for previous mistakes, known in the jargon of the industry as under recovery. Too little was charged in previous years because the people who ran the pool did not anticipate the full cost.

Considering the shambles that accompanied the opening of the electricity market to competition for industrial users, those same users cannot believe they are being asked to stump up ever larger payments for the poor operation of the industry.

The size of these payments suggests that the initial calculations for competition were very wrong. This is rather worrying, and not just for big industrialists. You and I, should we still be paying our bills then, will shortly have the pleasure of participating in a fully competitive market in electricity. The industry is running to an extremely tight timetable, and there must be fears that the pool will once again get it wrong.

On many occasions, the large energy users groups have lobbied that the electricity pool should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They have a fair point, one which will gain strength if full competition brings further chaos, and domestic customers' bills are raised in a couple of years time to pay for it.

Consider this. If billing systems such as American Express or Barclaycard, which are just as complex, caused administrative havoc with their customers, would they get away with asking those customers to pay for it? Very unlikely.

Inverse logic makes sense

NO institutional shareholder ever complained about being given too much information, as anyone who has attended a nipping, number-crunching City briefing can testify. Curious, therefore, to find Ernst & Young claiming, in a study published today, that the rules of disclosure over executive pay and benefits



have increased the volume of information that must appear in the accounts "to such a degree that it may, ironically, have become a barrier to effective communication".

The accountant finds that the companies surveyed, including the top 200 in the FT-SE index, devoted anything between three and 11 pages of their accounts to such information, with six or seven being the norm. So what? No shareholder is forced to sit down and read the accounts from cover to cover, much of the minutiae squibbled away at the back probably goes unread by all but the most diligent analyst. But the principle behind disclosure, as espoused by Greenbury, is that the information should be

there and available for any shareholder who wants it.

Ernst & Young does make a reasonable point about the verbiage that surrounds general policy statements on remuneration and corporate governance. These tend to be worded in the vaguest of terms, and the same platitudes may be wheeled out by companies with quite different policies. Consider this extract from one of the big food retailers. Investors are reassured that the board is constituted in such a way that "it maintains full and effective control over appropriate strategic, financial, operational and compliance issues".

The trick here is to use the Inversion Test. Rephrase the promise as the exact opposite. If it is inconceivable anyone would ever say anything quite so silly — "we maintain no control whatsoever over strategy, etc." — then the original point being made is probably not worth making.

The Test is a useful tool for investors cutting their way through the corporate puffery that infests the average set of accounts. Company directors as a breed tend to self-importance

and pomposity, as anyone forced to deal with them soon learns. Use the Inversion Test on them. It works.

Darker days ahead for King Coal?

RICHARD BUDGE was on a hiding to nothing when he bought English Coal, which is perhaps one reason not to envy him the £12 million he scooped out of the stock market yesterday. Imagine the howls of rage, the brickbats, the political scandal if, as expected, RJB Mining had gone bust under the weight of debt and the high price he paid the Government.

Instead it has been a success beyond all expectations, so attracting howls of rage, brickbats and political scandal. Mr Budge achieved this by running the business for cash and selling down the huge stocks he inherited — these fell from nine million tonnes in December 1994 to 3.5 million today, a reduction worth £165 million to RJB in pure cash at today's prices.

But RJB's share price took a

tumble this summer as analysts worried about how much coal he could expect to sell in future. The main customers, the coal generators, are shy of signing up beyond 1998, when current contracts run out. Their worry is the impact of new rivals in their chosen market.

Longer term, more stringent measures against pollution would hand even more of that market to gas generation. The two coal generators have the facility now to import as much as half their coal needs, and they are using this to strike a hard bargain with RJB. Mr Budge's glory days may be behind him.

Date with Danka

DANKA Business Systems is a deeply obscure office equipment company, but not so obscure that the behaviour of its non-executives should be overlooked. The bonus scheme voted through by shareholders is not generous enough, it seems, despite already high basic salaries, so the non-executives have taken it upon themselves to award almost £400,000 of bonuses which directors have not earned. Danka's annual meeting is on July 19, at London's Lanesborough Hotel, and investors should make sure they are there to register a protest.



David Crossland, of Airtours, has predicted an end to mass discounting. He believes profits lie in early bookings

Early-bird Airtours in surprise travel move

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AIRTOURS seized the initiative from its rival tour operators yesterday and launched its first-edition brochures for summer 1997 — even though 2.2 million people have yet to take their annual holiday this year.

As the second largest tour operator in the UK, Airtours' surprise move forced First Choice, which holds number three position, to rush out its own brochures. Analysts expressed concern that disgruntled travel agents would now have to attempt to sell summer '96, winter '96 and summer '97 holidays all at once. Brochures are not usually launched before the end of August.

The rush to be first on the shelves had echoes of autumn 1994, when tour operators launched early, only to experience a fall in sales which a host of discounts and special offers failed to reverse.

Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, the travel agency chain owned by Airtours, described the early launch as "the usual manic travel industry behaviour".

Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours, said research had shown that a significant proportion of customers wanted to book early. "Who are we to tell them they cannot book?" he said.

Thomson, the market leader, is not expected to launch its brochures until August 1. A spokeswoman said: "We are sticking to our original plan."

David Crossland, Airtours chairman, has predicted an end to mass holiday discounting and believes profits lie in encouraging early bookings.

Airtours' cruise holidays, all-inclusive packages, free child places and couples-only options are now on sale and Tony Ben-

nett said he expected about 1 million people to have booked their holiday for next year by mid-August. He said: "We already had 50,000 people on a waiting list for holidays when the first brochures came out and we expect between 1.5 and 2 million — around 20 per cent of the total market — to book before Christmas."

Most of the deals require a small deposit and holiday insurance to be paid in full at the time of booking. This means a family of four might be paying around £150 to secure a holiday for next year.

Kevin Ivie, marketing and planning director of First Choice, said he regarded the launch as too early but added, "we are not prepared to have a rival's brochures on the shelves without ours there, too."

Tempus, page 28

Banks get behind Wickes

WICKES, the DIY group that suspended its shares after revealing accounting irregularities, sought to reassure investors yesterday by rushing out a statement confirming bank support (George Sivel writes).

Wickes said: "The company's 11 UK funding banks have confirmed their support for the company with the facilities it requires." It is understood a facility of £18 million replaces existing facilities. Michael von Bretano, the new chairman, said: "Our objective and that of our funding banks has been to ensure stability for the business. We have made it plain that the accounting issues which have been uncovered should not detract from the fact that our operating businesses are sound."

Analysts cut forecasts as Sainsbury slips again

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TRADING at Sainsbury's supermarkets has slipped once again, with like-for-like sales growth down to 2.7 per cent.

Early last month, when Sainsbury revealed its first fall in profit in 22 years, it said trading growth for the first few weeks of the financial year had reached 3 per cent, up from 2.6 per cent in 1995/96.

Analysts, who have been watching for any sign of a recovery at the once pre-eminent supermarket chain, reacted to the slowdown in

growth by cutting their forecasts for full-year profits yesterday.

David McCarthy, of BZW, moved his forecast down to £740 million from £765 million, while Tony MacNeary, of NatWest Markets, said he too was planning to reduce his forecast from its last £770 million level.

David Sainsbury, chairman, addressing shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting, said that excluding petrol, sales growth was at 3.3 per cent. He was upbeat about the

company's prospects, saying "our performance is improving and we are beginning to see some of the benefits of the changes we have made."

But he admitted that petrol, subject of a vicious nationwide price war, was hurting the company. "Our petrol sales are, at present, significantly below last year's level as a result of the highly competitive conditions in this market," he said, adding, "The trading environment for Sainsbury's supermarkets is otherwise stable, although competition con-

tinues to be intense."

Savacentre sales have also been affected by lower petrol sales, Mr Sainsbury said.

Last month the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to March 9 down nearly £100 million to £712 million.

It then announced a four-point strategy plan covering customer service, choice and quality and has subsequently introduced a loyalty card, something Mr Sainsbury had earlier set his face against.

Away from supermarkets, like-for-like sales at its Homebase subsidiary have risen 8 per cent since the start of the financial year and Texas sales have increased one per cent since the year end. The company is to speed up its conversion of Texas stores into the Homebase format, planning to convert 140 stores in the next three years, rather than the next five. Sales in stores already converted have risen 50 per cent.

Mr Sainsbury said that the group's Reward customer loyalty card launched only two weeks ago, has had an excellent start, but that it was too early yet to judge its long term success.

The company's shares closed down 5p at 377p.

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Tempus, page 28

Cray sells P-E to Lorien

By PAUL DURMAN

CRAY ELECTRONICS, the former stock market high-flyer, is to receive £7.8 million for selling P-E International, the management consultancy it bought three years ago. It will also sell two properties used by P-E for £3.2 million.

The purchaser is Lorien, an information technology contracting firm that was one of the original ten members of the Alternative Investment Market. Lorien plans to pay for P-E with a one-for-one rights issue at 250p a share that will raise £14.25 million.

Cray originally paid £16.2 million for P-E. It has retained the software consultancy side and sold another information technology arm for £4.5 million in February. Jon Richards, chief executive, claimed the net result was that Cray had got its money back and kept the software business.

The sale was announced alongside losses of £20.9 million for the year to end April, a reversal from a £1.3 million profit. Most of the loss was due to the £13.5 million cost of restructuring Cray Commu-

nications, the computer network business. Surplus property cost Cray another £4.2 million.

Alec Daly, Cray's chairman, described the results as disappointing and totally unsatisfactory. There is no dividend.

Roger Dye, finance director, is leaving for a new job after less than a year with Cray. His replacement is Simon Hunt, a former KPMG partner who is also a director of Videologic, the computer chip designer.

Tempus, page 28

NatWest analysts top City poll

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

NATWEST SECURITIES yesterday secured a double victory as it was declared top research stockbroker in the 1996 Exel Survey of Investment Analysts and its oil-sector analysts clinched the best individual team award.

NatWest topped SBC Warburg, which had held top spot for five years, by polling 11.8 per cent of the votes. Warburg slipped back to third place, on 11.1 per cent of the vote, with HSBC James Capel taking second place, on 11.3 per cent. NatWest also took top ranking in the rival Reuters survey, which was published earlier this year.

For the third year running, Fergus

MacLeod, an oil analyst with NatWest Securities, took the top individual broker prize, with Charlie Burrows, who covers the engineering sector for HSBC James Capel, in second place.

The Exel research also showed that investment analysts are increasingly under threat as fund managers raise the level of in-house research. About 40 per cent of fund managers said that they had stepped up their in-house operations this year, with many again intending to do so in the near future. A further 40 per cent said that they had increased the number of one-to-one meetings with companies last year.

Geoffrey Osmint, the founder of the survey and consulting editor of Exel, said that fund managers were moving towards a "partnership" structure, with in-house research teams using a small number of brokers to supplement and verify their own research.

More than 70 per cent of the votes in the Exel survey this year went to just the top seven brokers.

A total of 107 fund managers, responsible for the investment of more than £1,000 billion, responded to Exel's survey.

City Diary, page 29

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Interest rate nerves leave investors on the sidelines

UNCERTAINTY about the future course of interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic kept investors sidelined during London trading.

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee in Washington and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, in London were keeping mum about their intentions last night as financial markets drew to a close in Europe.

This stalemate and an opening fall of almost 40 points on Wall Street took its toll. By the close of business fewer than 700 million shares had been traded, with the FT-SE 100 index finishing 11.6 points down at 3,714.1. With Wall Street closed today for the Independence Day celebrations, there is little hope that institutional investors will be able to work up much enthusiasm ahead of the weekend.

There was no sign of the much discussed bid by Granada for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television. Shares in Yorkshire rose sharply late on Tuesday in response to suggestions that Granada was ready to offer £14 a share, valuing the company at more than £700 million. Granada already owns 24 per cent of Yorkshire, but having already shelved offer £3.4 billion this year for Forte, it is unlikely to make such a move just yet. Granada fell 1p to 83p.

Revived takeover talk was good for a rise of 13p to 56p in East Midlands Electricity. Elsewhere among the utilities speculative buying lifted Wessex Water 7p to 36p.

GEC crept up 12p to 363p in response to better than expected full-year figures showing pre-tax profits up from £891 million to £981 million. They are the last figures to be presided over by Lord Weinstock, who is due to step down as managing director. George Simpson, the chief executive of Lucas Industries, takes up the reins at GEC on September 7.

Brokers have already pencilled in profits of at least £1.05 billion for the current year and are growing increasingly excited about prospects for the group once Simpson takes over. More than 23 million shares changed hands.

J Sainsbury failed to impress the City or shareholders at the annual meeting, with the shares finishing 5p cheaper at 377p. David Sainsbury,



J Sainsbury lost 5p as David Sainsbury said margins dropped

chairman, told shareholders that last year had been a difficult time for the group. He warned that the cost of improved service and lower gross margins in the second half will have an on-going effect on the group's profits performance this time round. On Tuesday, Safeway announced an increase in like-for-like sales of 5.2 per cent.

National Power found itself the subject of intense institutional demand as the price firmed 2p to 524p. By the close of business, more than 14 million shares had changed hands. Most of the demand came from fund managers anxious to buy the stock ahead of it going ex the special 100 net divided on July 15.

highlighting the City's growing disillusionment with Sainsbury. Safeway, which on Tuesday spent more than £300 million buying back 60 million of its own shares, fell 8p to 338p.

RJB Mining, the group which bought most of the assets of British Coal, has splashed out £94.3 million on buying back its own shares. BZW paid 55p for 17.12

million shares, or 10 per cent of the issued share capital, in a move designed to enhance shareholder value. The price closed 13p down at 540p with Richard Budge, chief executive, taking the opportunity to cash in some of his chips with the sale of 400,000 shares.

British Airways failed to benefit from news of increased passenger traffic. The number

half profits will be substantially down on last year's figure of £7.24 million.

The worst affected parts of its business are its Italian lingerie business and its lace operations. By contrast Courtlauds European operations have been doing well, although brokers say there are known problems at its middle-market lace division.

Pain advanced a further 10p to 425p as David Porter, chief executive, continued to talk to City fund managers on the logic behind the proposed acquisition of Amstrad, 4p better at 200p.

First-time dealings in Circle Communications on the Alternative Investment Market got off to a confident start. Shares in the group, which handles the rights of television programmes worldwide, were placed at 170p by Peel Hunt, the broker. They started life at 183p before closing at their high of 185p for the day, a premium of 15p.

Elsewhere on AIM shares of Firecrest, the computer software specialist, resumed trading at 78p after following the sale of the worldwide rights to the Internet Transphone and the rights of the Collect loyalty scheme to Netex Network Communication Corp in the US. The value put on the deal is \$12 million. The price ended the day 10p better at 80p.

A positive trading statement lifted Fergusson International 2p to 264p.

GILT-EDGED: Prices suffered a late sell-off on the back of weaker US treasury bonds and the apparent reluctance of Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George to cut base rates further at their monthly economic meeting.

Index-linked issues managed to make further headway, leading to speculation that the Bank may be tempted to issue further tranches of stock in the next few weeks.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 1/16¢ easier at 1106 1/16¢, as just 27,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell 1/16¢ to 97 1/16¢, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 slipped three ticks to 1102 3/16¢.

NEW YORK: Trading was quiet on Wall Street as investors waited for news on interest rates from the Federal Reserve. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 23.27 points lower at 5,697.11.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5697.11 (-23.27)
S&P Composite 671.72 (-1.99)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 22579.02 (+31.05)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11063.28 (-21.15)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 360.31 (+0.86)

Sydney:
AO 2235.4 (-30.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2568.95 (-3.30)

Singapore:
Straits 2271.56 (-1.90)

Brussels:
General 9583.46 (+2.71)

Paris:
CAC-40 2113.98 (+2.18)

Zurich:
SIX 803.20 (+0.90)

London:
FT 30 2728.6 (-4.4)

FT 100 3714.1 (-11.6)

FT-SE Mid 250 4364.2 (-4.8)

FT-SE A 330 4873.3 (-5.9)

FT-SE Euro Stoxx 100 1703.2 (-3.7)

FT A All-Share 1853.8 (-5.16)

FT 100 Financials 1970.5 (-4.02)

FT Fixed Interest 112.50 (-0.03)

FT Govt Secs 92.50 (-0.11)

Bargains 291.46

SEI Volume 491.4m

USM (Datacom) 218.22 (-0.08)

US 1.5990 (+0.0028)

German Mark 2.3776 (+0.0017)

Exchange Index 95.8 (-0.1)

Bank of England official call (4pm)

LECU 1.2990

LSOR 1.0788

RPI 152.9 May (C2) Jan 1996-100

RPIX 152.5 May (C2) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Carlisle Wts 84 -

Circle Comms 185 -

City Technology 216 -

Fibernet Group (100) 123 +

Fieldens (60) 61 -

Gold Mines Sardinia 21 +

Gold Mines Sardinia 21 +

IES (285) 2653d

IES Warrants 250 -

Independent Brit 733d +

Intelligent Envs (94) 83 -

Jarvis Hotels (175) 175d +

Lands Improvement 121 -

Matrix Healthcare 110 -

NECA 18 -

Pace Micro Tech 190 -

SEA Multimedia (70) 73 -

Sinclair Montrose 167 -

Solid State Supplies 90 -

Staffwell (125) 287 +

Sun Life & Provincial 222 -

Theo Fennell (118) 116 -

Treats Group (174) 161 +

Vocalis Group (95) 115 -

Whitlatch of Chelsea 150 -

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allen n/p (250) 11 -

Dixon Motors n/p 43 -

Doeflex n/p (230) 44 -

Independent Nws n/p 15 -

Johnston Press n/p 13 -

Mackie Ltd n/p (275) 17 -

Orbit n/p (49) 5 -

Panco n/p (245) 44 -

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

S&U 390p (+17p)

Pain 425p (+16p)

MAID 296p (+11p)

Orbit 433p (+16p)

FALLS:

Danka Bn Sps 448p (-35p)

Courtauld Text 344p (-10p)

Berkeley Gp 604p (-13p)

Rank Org 487p (-10p)

Broken Hill 888p (-17p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Over to Mr Simpson

GEC's improvement in profits and the rise in dividend raise hopes in the City that the giant is stirring.

Profits have been largely flat for the past few years, although that in itself is commendable considering the tough climates in which GEC operates. With contributions from VSEL feeding through into the accounts and healthy orderbooks soon to translate into deliveries, GEC may feel that the lean period is firmly in the past.

More optimism surrounds George Simpson, the new managing director who in the autumn succeeds Lord Weinstock. GEC's creator. But the well-respected chief executive of Lucas Industries has his work cut out.

Under the scrutiny of Lord Weinstock, who remains at the company as chairman emeritus, Mr Simpson has a good deal of sorting

out to do. Faced with a contracting defence industry GEC's fortunes must be further buoyed by its electronics systems, power systems and telecommunications. The company's strong ability to bid for infrastructure orders could also prove a cornerstone in its development.

It is also likely to look for further joint ventures in defence work, such as the tie-up with Thomson-CSF.

Further use must be made by Mr Simpson of GEC's cash pile. He is not the type of chief executive to spend impulsively but nevertheless GEC's cash needs to work harder. Lord Weinstock built up GEC in steady, risk-averse stages. It has been said that for Weinstock one should read "yield stock". But greater imagination could breathe more life into the company. Much is expected of Mr Simpson.

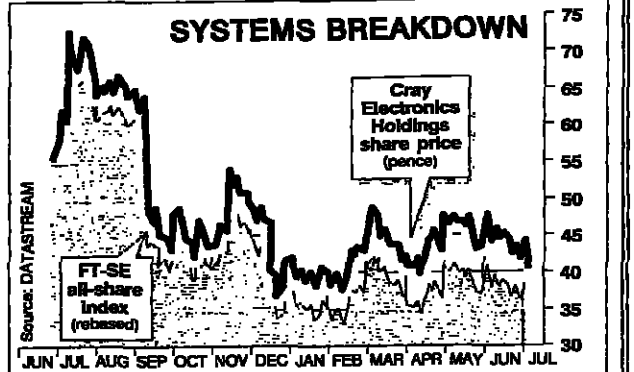
Cray

WHATEVER its faults, Cray Electronics has certainly given its shareholders an exciting ride. After months of trading water, a case can be made that Cray is set to rise again. Yesterday's sale of P-E International - the management consultancy it should never have bought - leaves the group focused on information technology. The £11 million proceeds will beef up a sickly balance sheet.

Cray claims it has made sense of Cray Communications, the computer network division. Built around the Dowty IT business it bought from TI, Cray Comms turned out to be full of too many ageing products. Now the range has been cut back and the first of the new generation of products is winning glowing reviews. Relocating all Cray

Comm's UK manufacturing and research and development at Watford will produce substantial savings. Securing supply agreements with the likes of Cisco looks a good move. The survival of chief executive Jon Richards, part of the crack management team that Warburgs helped install seven years ago, suggests he must be

doing something right. With 6.9 million shares - unlike Sir Peter Michael, he never sold after the bumper bonus payment three years ago - he has more incentive than most. Cray is expected to return to profits of £6 million or so, and this could be the time to buy. But until Cray starts to deliver again, at 41p it is strictly for the brave.



J Sainsbury

J SAINSBURY is a victim of its own success. Such was its power, until the "trolley wars", that no one has quite been able to believe how badly it has fallen behind its rivals. But yesterday's update on trading since the results announcement in May suggests the chain has not got the remarkable recovery abilities that some hoped for.

Like-for-like sales growth in the Sainsbury supermarkets of 3.3 per cent does not include petrol sales. Count them in and the supermarkets have grown just 2.7 per cent, down on last month's indication of 3 per cent. Analysts have shaved a further 3 per cent off profit forecasts.

The trading slowdown does not mean that Sainsbury has chosen the wrong tactics, but it confirms that the food market is still extremely competitive and that Sainsbury remains the laggard of the supermarket

bunch. There is still hope that the Reward loyalty card, which has had no chance yet to prove itself, will help sales - but there is no guarantee. Given the state of its core supermarkets trading performance at present, Sainsbury shares look overrated.

Airtours

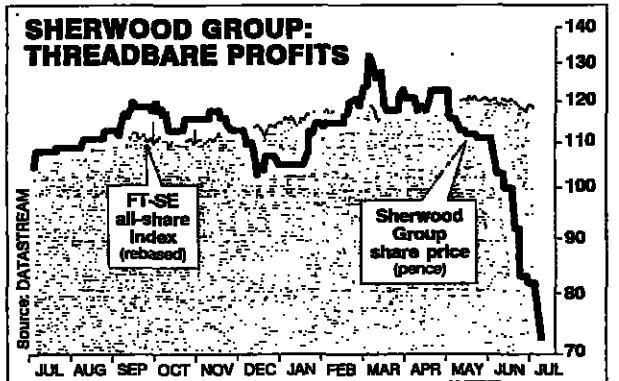
THERE was a collective groan from the City yesterday as the recent tour operators' collective outbreak of common sense appeared to have come to an end. After a disastrous year in 1995, the big three cut capacity and raised prices in an attempt to restore profits. This gentlemanly behaviour continued even in the face of a slump in bookings and reluctance from the public to make any commitment to holiday plans until less than a fortnight before they were intending to get away.

Industry figures show 1995 sales may well be 10 per cent down on the previous year,

but supply and demand were looking more evenly matched and the leading players indicated their reluctance to start late-season discounting. But then Airtours, probably the most commercially astute of the bunch, yesterday decided that since there were up to two million people willing to buy next year's summer holiday before Christmas, it was time to bring out first edition brochures earlier than ever.

Yesterday's frenzy of launches was a reminder that tour operating is an industry in which market share is jealously guarded. Airtours claims it has not increased capacity for summer 1997 but concedes it has the option to do so. If profits recover from the disaster of 1995, as they are expected to do, the temptation for tour companies to add on extra volume may be irresistible.

In the short term, the shares may be buoyed by encouraging year-end results. In the longer term, the sector remains highly volatile.



Sherwood Group share price (pence)

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Source: DATASTREAM

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

ICE-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical 19.40 -0.15

Brent 15 day (Sep) 18.70 -0.10

WTI Intermediate (Aug) 21.25 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Sep) 20.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Oct) 19.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Nov) 18.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Dec) 17.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jan) 16.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Feb) 15.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Mar) 14.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Apr) 13.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (May) 12.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jun) 11.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jul) 10.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Aug) 9.40 -0.05

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WTI Intermediate (Oct) 7.40 -0.05

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WTI Intermediate (Apr) 0.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (May) 0.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jun) 0.40 -0.05

WTI Intermediate (Jul) 0.40 -0.05

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

To those who have...

HAVING sold Pet Plan to Cornhill Insurance for £325 million in May, co-founder Patsy Bloom has spent much of her time turning down proposals of marriage and penning letters of congratulation. The 1993 winner of the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award is, however, not quite sure what to say to the gentleman from London WS, who sent her a £10 cheque. He explained in his covering letter: "For some time now I have set aside a small sum of money by way of congratulating those people I believe have done most to bring our nation to prominence during the year... Sorry it is not more."

SAINSBURY shareholders who braved the unseasonal rain to attend the annual meeting in Westminster in spite of the tube strike will not go unrewarded. Just for turning up, David Sainsbury promised them 500 points on the new Reward loyalty cards if they register by the end of the month. Customers have to spend £500 to earn the same number of points.

Large delay

THE Treasury was to announce on Monday that, with immediate effect, Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, had become a member of the Board of Banking Supervision, an independent arm of the Bank of England. The parliamentary question had been tabled, No 10 had briefed the lobby and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was ready with his Commons reply. At the last minute, the SIB demanded a delay until yesterday. Why? Because Large had been out of the country and had told no one of his new appointment. Modesty or incompetence?



Large, modest?

Food for thought

THE annual stampede for copies of the 1996 Exel report on investment analysts was reduced to a harmless trickle yesterday as the organisers turned the occasion into a strict one copy per invitation event. Exel has been stung in recent years by the arrival of some serious competition from the rival Reuters survey and has clearly acted on the advice of the media analysts, deciding that selling the report makes more economic sense than giving too many away. Exel hopes to persuade the City of the superior virtues of its report through their stomachs, with 400 of the great and the good enjoying a lavish spread at Guildhall.

Euston calling

ANOTHER icon of Britain's cherished railway heritage passed into anachronism yesterday to take its place alongside the curled up sandwich and Motorail with the publication of probably the last ever British Rail report and accounts. By this time next year, BR, once a sprawling industrial giant employing half a million people, will be responsible for little more than a handful of disused viaducts. Will the last director leaving BR's Euston House headquarters please remember to turn out the lights.

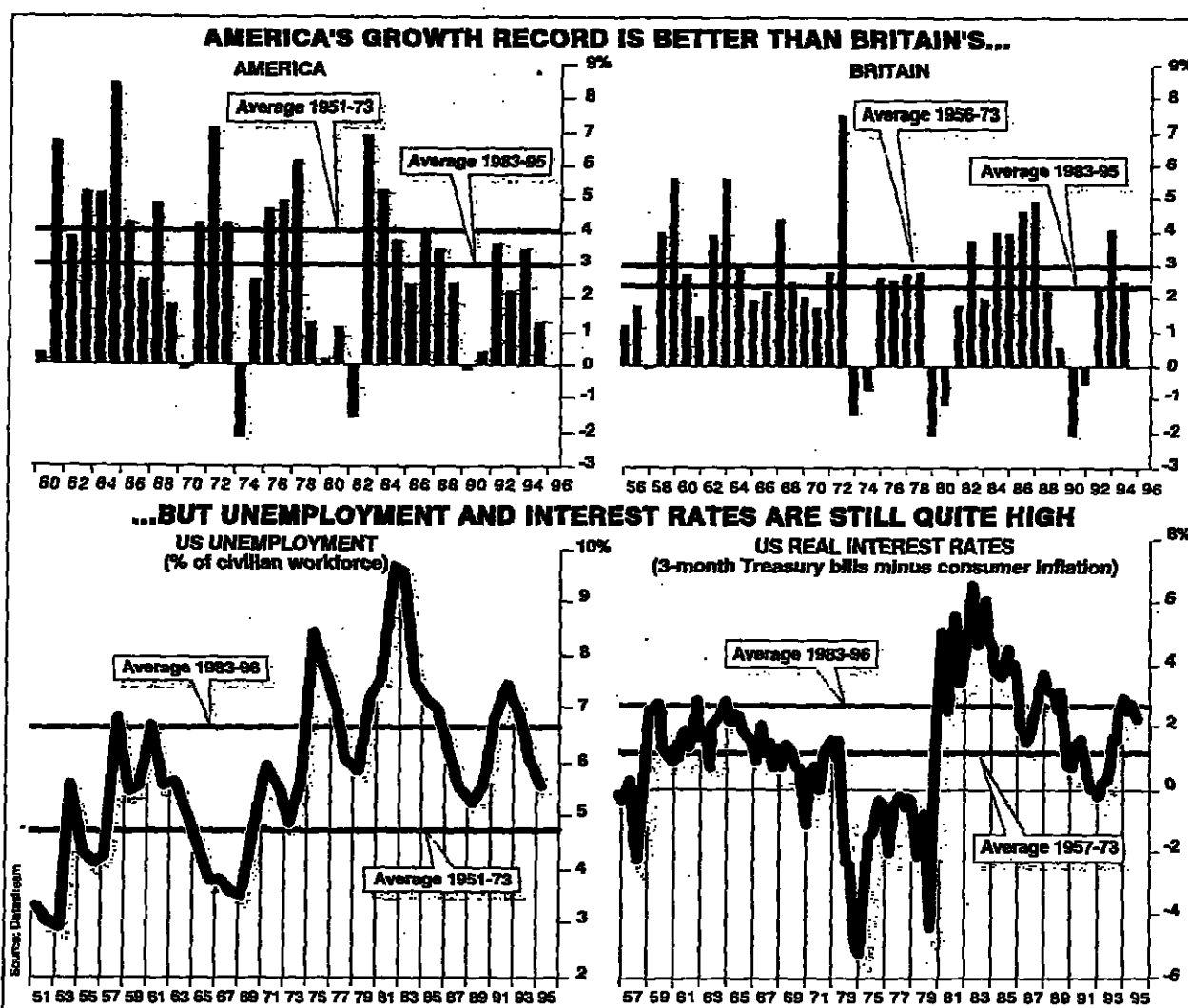
MORAG PRESTON

What the Fed says is almost as important in the current debate as what it does

By the time you read this, the US Federal Reserve Board will have announced its decision on whether to raise American interest rates — and that decision, in turn, will dominate the financial background for the entire world economy until the next meeting of the Federal Open Markets Committee in six weeks' time. But the Fed's decision, or more precisely the way it presents it, could do something more important: it could shift the balance of power in the most important debate about economic policy for 20 years.

The critical question in this debate, which will eventually have to be confronted by every politician and economist in every industrialised country, is whether it might be possible to eliminate mass unemployment and promote long-term prosperity by allowing capitalist economies to accelerate their growth. In the past five years, this debate has quietly pitted the Americans against the Europeans (and above all the Germans) at every G7 summit and every international meeting of finance ministers and central bankers. The Germans have always insisted that Europe's rising unemployment and feeble economic growth was due to "structural rigidities" and ineluctable long-term trends such as demographic ageing and flagging technological progress. The Americans, while sharing the European concern about these supply-side problems (and demonstrating their concern through deeds not just words), have politely but firmly dismissed this as nonsense. People such as Larry Summers, America's outspoken Deputy Treasury Secretary, have argued that structural change was necessary but not sufficient for long-term prosperity. Demand management could, and should, do more to reduce unemployment in the short term (which means a period of one to three years) by easing monetary policy and allowing faster economic growth.

The Americans' surest evidence for this claim was simply their own experience. Mr Summers had only to point to the Federal Reserve Board's manifest success in simultaneously promoting both monetary stability and economic growth to reduce the arguments of the German sado-monetarists to an incoherent babble about credibility, savings ratios and M3 corridors. The optimistic American view has gradually gained ground around the world (Kenneth Clarke and recently perhaps even Eddie George have been among the converts). The sado-monetarist position now numbers very few policymakers outside Germany among its adherents (off the top of my head I can



think of only two: Tony Blair and Gordon Brown). But the Fed's actions and pronouncements have been critical to America's intellectual victory in this debate. The Fed is the one American institution which even European central bankers have performed to treat with an awed respect. If, by appearing deliberately to stifle economic growth, the Fed now looks as if it has taken the side of deflation, the damage it does to business confidence, both in America and Europe, could be grave. If, on the other hand, the Fed can make clear that it remains committed (as I think it does) to a policy of simultaneously controlling inflation and maximising economic growth, then any small and temporary reversals in the long-term commitment to maintain the lowest possible level of interest rates will be taken by the markets and the business world as just that: mid-course corrections on a long journey towards faster economic growth and lower unemployment.

Crucially, however, there is one powerful group of economic opinion-formers that remains unconvinced that low inflation is compatible with faster economic growth and full employment. The young financial economists who went to university after the anti-Keynesian revolution, and who now dominate economic thinking in the markets, still instinctively believe in the monetarism they imbibed with their mothers' milk in the 1970s. Not only do these young men believe the monetarist dogma themselves; they believe that the Fed believes it. Whether or not the American central bank adds 0.25 percentage points to the Federal Funds rate this week or waits until August, the overwhelming opinion among financial opera-

tors is that interest rates will soon have to rise, and rise sharply. Indeed, the futures market expects an increase in US short-term rates from 5.25 per cent today to 6 per cent by the end of the year and 6.5 per cent by next June. The market expects this monetary tightening because it believes that the Fed cannot tolerate the US economy growing, as it now is, at an "unsustainable" rate of more than 2.5 per cent.

More horrifying still for the Fed (or so thinks the market) is the inexorable decline of the US jobless figures below the so-called "natural rate of unemployment". This natural rate is a mystical number invented by Milton Friedman, the high priest of monetarism. According to Friedman, inflation accelerates without limit if unemployment falls below this natural rate, which is why some of his disciples use the ugly term "non-acceleration inflation rate of unemployment" or NAIRU. But what neither Friedman nor any of his disciples has ever done was to offer policymakers the slightest guidance about how to determine where this magic figure might lie.

As a result, monetarist economists have been reduced to simply making the numbers up — usually by taking the present rate of unemployment (whatever it happens to be) and adding a few decimal points. At present most financial economists put the natural rate in the US somewhere between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent. Since these "estimates" of the natural rate are (as usual) somewhat above the actual prevailing rate of 5.5 per cent, the Fed is supposed to be alarmed. As far as I can tell, the Fed treats such calculations with the disdain they

richly deserve. Nobody has managed to calculate correctly the natural rate of unemployment because no such number exists. Whether a given level of unemployment will produce accelerating inflation at any given time depends on a host of ever-changing conditions: in 1976 or 1986, unemployment of 5.5 per cent might have pushed up wages and prices, but in 1996, economic expectations, productivity growth and bargaining conditions in the labour market may well be so different that unemployment could fall to 4, 3 or 2 per cent without starting an inflationary spiral: it is simply impossible to say in advance when inflation will accelerate; we will only know after the event.

Exactly the same argument applies to two equally vexed questions which supposedly loom large in the Fed's nightmares: the "sustainable" rate of economic growth, above which inflation will accelerate; and the "output gap", which supposedly defines the spare capacity available in the economy before additional demand produces accelerating inflation instead of investment and output growth.

Like the natural rate, the output gap and sustainable growth are theoretical constructs which are unknowable in advance. Only when inflation starts to accelerate will we know that unemployment has fallen too low or that growth has been too rapid or that capacity has been used up. Since nobody wants to see another inflationary spiral it is understandable that the Fed should tread carefully in allowing growth to accelerate and unemployment to keep falling. But being careful is not the same thing as deliberately stifling job creation and growth. If and when the Fed decides to "snug" interest

rates, it must make it as clear that it will cut rates again as soon as possible, if it turns out that inflation is not, in fact, speeding up.

Only by such a pragmatic process of trial and error, can the Fed or any other central bank discover the maximum rate of growth and the minimum level of unemployment which is compatible with low and stable inflation in the American (or any other economy) as it is today.

My personal conviction is that the Fed and other central banks should not use as benchmarks for growth, unemployment and interest rates the deeply disappointing levels of economic performance of the 1980s, but rather the favourable rates that were typical in the 1950s and 1960s. Only experience will tell whether America, or any other economy, can eventually match the performance of the Keynesian golden age. But one thing is sure: we will never know without trying. The Fed governors seem to understand this far better than the financial markets.

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Wresting the debate from the sado-monetarists

End of the road for a man of contradictions

Jon Ashworth on the highs and lows in Lord Weinstock's life and career

Lord Weinstock, one of the enduring giants of British industry, set the clock ticking towards his imminent retirement yesterday, when he presented GEC's financial results for the last time. He steps down as managing director at the annual meeting in September, crowning a career that stretches back 33 years.

Lord Weinstock, 72 later this month, joins Lord Hanson, Sir James Goldsmith, and other prominent industrialists in dominating three decades of British business life. His story is one of contradictions: an unassuming man, with a passion for opera and racehorses, who embraces the good life, yet is notorious for squeezing the pennies out of GEC's managers.

Criticised by the City for not taking enough chances with GEC, Lord Weinstock need only point to the company's track record since he became managing director in 1963. Then, the company made a pre-tax profit of £4 million on sales of £135 million. Last year, turnover hit £11 billion, generating profits of £1 billion. The sum of £1,000 invested in GEC shares in 1963 would be worth £50,357 today. Like Lord Hanson and

Michael Sobell of Radio and Allied Industries, five years after the marriage, Weinstock joined the family business, which merged with General Electric Company in 1960.

Knighted in 1970, and ennobled a decade later, Lord Weinstock has never attempted to endear himself either to politicians or the City analysts, who he faced for the last time yesterday. The City, in return, has dismissed him as cautious to the point of boring, and criticised him for sitting on a £2.7 billion cash mountain.

Cynics might detect a hint of sour grapes at the thought of all the money that could have been made in stock-broking and merchant banking fees. Whatever, the mere hint of a new hand on the GEC tiller sent the share price soaring.

The Weinstock approach to management is summed up in a functional office in Stanhope Gate, London, with its direct dial telephone, ready to call senior managers to account at the push of a button. Monthly reports from GEC's subsidiaries are annotated in red felt-tip pen, often with brutally direct comments.

This prudence has influenced a generation of businessmen. White before him, the young Arnold Weinstock rapidly became a familiar figure in the British press. By 1967, he was being hailed as the man who had quadrupled GEC's profits in under five years. He brought together the three great UK electrical companies, General Electric Company, AEI and English Electric, providing the nucleus for the modern-day GEC. Bespectacled and softly spoken, he had the manner more of an Oxford don than of a high-powered captain of industry.

Born on July 29, 1924, the son of a tailor from Poland, Lord Weinstock grew up in north London and attended state schools. His father died when he was five, and his mother when he was nine, leaving him to be brought up by his older brother. He attended the London School of Economics, specialising in statistics, then worked in the Admiralty before a spell in a Mayfair estate agent. It was there that he met his wife, Netta Sobell, the daughter of

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Names beware

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, Names who are seeking to continue to underwrite should beware that some managing agents are trying to merge their syndicates, the good with the not so good.

Fortunately, Lloyd's regulators are making them gain the support of their names. Before names cast their vote they should question the motivation of the managing agents. The agents are seeking total control over these syndicates and to seize the goodwill and asset value that has been built up over decades from the names for nothing.

If the names want to retain the value of their assets then they must insist on an EGM for major syndicate mergers and vote against unless they receive proper compensation.

Plus ça change, plus ça

Yours faithfully, TOM BENYON, The Society of Names, PO Box 229, Adstock, Buckinghamshire.

United Utilities bonuses based on artificial performance

From Mr Richard Warden

Sir, The chairman and chief executive of United Utilities have just received massive pay rises, supposedly justified by additional responsibility.

Yet the company has shed 800 staff, and plans to lose another 1,700. When this happens presumably the directors will receive a pay cut for having to manage fewer people.

Directors' bonuses are

based on annual financial performance, with a long-term aim to link them to shareholder return. If the company was in a truly competitive situation this would seem reasonable.

However, it has just imposed price rises twice the inflation rate, and the customer has no option to buy elsewhere if they do not like them. Such rises generate an artificial financial performance that preserves share-

holders' dividends and directors' bonuses.

It is telling that no mention has been made of linking directors' performance payments to customer satisfaction.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD WARDEN, 2 Waterloo Way, Bresdon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Spare a thought for bondholders

From Mr Nick Mandell

Sir, I was interested to see in your picture caption story on June 24 that ING Barings is sponsoring the 24 Peaks Challenge in the Lake District to raise money for the charity Feed the Children.

While this is very laudable, perhaps ING Barings might also like to consider raising money for a good cause on their own doorstep, namely the Barings bondholders who

lost £100 million in the Barings collapse and subsequent rescue.

This belated initiative could take the form, for instance, of sponsoring a hair shirt pilgrimage to Singapore, a gruelling test of stamina and conscience which would no doubt attract strong teams, not only from among ING Barings' own over-bonused staff, but also from the joint managers and underwriters of the bond issue.

It is conceivable that the regulatory bodies involved in the Barings collapse would

also want to support this event. Certainly a joint Bank of England/SEA team led by Eddie George would set the kind of example the City badly needs and might raise a considerable part of the £100 million recompense required.

In short, while I wish Feed the Children every success, I would also like to remind ING Barings that charity begins, or should begin, at home.

Yours faithfully, NICK MANDELL, 19 High Street, Elstree, Hertfordshire.

Cheshire Oaks set for £250m growth in designer outlets

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BAA McArthur/Glen, owner of the Cheshire Oaks designer outlet centre, intends to invest about £250 million in the next five years opening similar centres around the country, offering discounted designer goods.

Joe Kaempfer, the company's American chief executive, said yesterday this should create about 5,000 jobs, some part-time.

The company owns five

other large sites, equal to over 15 million sq ft, around Britain. The company is a joint venture between BAA, the airports group, and the privately owned McArthur/Glen Europe, in which Mr Kaempfer is the largest single investor.

It is owned 50-50 but BAA provides the majority of the financing.

Mr Kaempfer said that the expansion follows a very suc-

cessful launch at Cheshire Oaks, which had more than three million visitors in its first year. The British had embraced the concept, he said. "Everyone I've met would rather pay less for the same thing and it gives tenants a way to deal with excess goods and overrun. It means they don't have to have sales."

The company's next £35 million outlet centre will open in Swindon next March. It plans to open at Ashford in Kent, near the international train terminal, in early 1998 and at a site off the M1 between Nottingham and Sheffield late next year.

It also plans openings at York and at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

It has planning permission for all sites except Ashford, where it is about to make an application.

Cheshire Oaks, near Ellesmere Port, opened in March 1995. It has 32 retail units with tenants from Jaeger to Nike and is the biggest designer outlet centre in Europe. Mr Kaempfer said that around 20 of those retailers will be opening at the new centre in Swindon, which already has commitments for 55 per cent of the available space.

The company has also opened a centre at Troyes near Paris and is looking to open others in France, Germany, Austria and Sweden.

Mr Kaempfer said that the company's cash needs meant that it was considering a flotation, probably in London and New York, in two or three years' time. In the meantime, it is in discussions with a consortium of banks about a loan to help to fund its rapid expansion.

Mr Kaempfer said that the main difference between operating in the US, where designer outlet malls are well-established, and the UK is that manufacturers and retailers here need more help in setting up initially.

"It is like running a giant outdoor department store with concessions and we're helping them," he said.

BAA McArthur/Glen is now looking at a further three sites in the UK and, according to Mr Kaempfer, "at least one will come to something".

Regent St helps Crown Estate to £94.6m surplus

BY CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

THE Crown Estate, which hands over its profits to the Exchequer, yesterday announced a surplus of £94.6 million for 1995-1996, an increase of 11.5 per cent.

Its overall property valuation rose to £2.2 billion, up 9.7 per cent and its turnover of £143 million showed an increase of 7.4 per cent.

Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman, said: "These excellent results undoubtedly position the Crown Estate at the forefront of the UK's leading property investment companies, and are all the more remarkable because of the very wide portfolio of assets which must be managed."

The Crown Estate is a landed estate including nearly 300,000 acres of agricultural land in England, Scotland and Wales and substantial blocks of property, primarily in London.

Christopher Howes, chief executive, said the increased surplus was a pay-off for its investment decisions, stopping all development when it saw the recession coming, and restarting development, particularly in Regent Street, the jewel in the Crown Estate, at the bottom of the recession. Since 1989, the Crown Estate has invested about £100 million in Regent Street redevelopment, acquir-



Sir Denis: "remarkable"

sitions and street enhancement work. The current capital value of the Regent Street properties increased in the last year from £422 million to £510 million.

Mr Howes said: "We want to re-establish Regent Street for people, to attract more visitors and potential customers from home and abroad. We believe that to allow the street to reach its full potential a number of traffic control measures should be introduced."

The Crown Estate is part of the hereditary possession of the Sovereign. Since 1760 the profits have gone to the Exchequer under an arrangement for the provision of the Civil List. This year's surplus is nearly 12 times the size of the Civil List.



On board for the bidding: Prism's chairman, Godfrey Burley

Prism invited to bid for SW&W franchise

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PRISM RAIL, the first rail operator to trade on the stock market for nearly 50 years, has been invited to submit a final tender for the franchise to operate the South Wales & West Railway, the company announced yesterday.

Prism, which now runs the London Tilbury & Southend commuter line, is one of four parties selected by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising to bid for SW&W. Final

bids must be submitted early next month.

Shares of Prism, which trades on the Alternative Investment Market, were unchanged at 275p yesterday. The shares were placed at 100p in March. Prism secured a 15-year franchise to run the LTS line, dubbed the "misery line", into London's Fenchurch Street station. The flotation, by way of a private placing, raised £8 million.

Diamond prices to rise as demand grows

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE London-based Central Selling Organisation (CSO) is raising the price of diamonds by an average of 3 per cent in response to soaring high street sales, and renewed calm on world diamond markets. The rise, the second in eight months, suggests a new-found confidence in diamond sales.

The CSO, the marketing arm of De Beers, will raise the price of rough gem diamonds by an average of 3 per cent from July 8. The price of rough gems above one carat will rise by at least 7 per cent. Prices will increase progressively with size.

The CSO increased prices of rough gems above 2 carats by 5 per cent in November. The latest increase follows the signing, in February, of an accord with Russia, which had threatened to dilute diamond prices by selling independently of the CSO. An estimated \$1 billion in Russian diamonds evaded the CSO last year.

The increase follows increased buoyancy in America and Japan, which together account for 60 per cent of diamond sales. Demand has been strong across Europe, with the exception of Germany. Retail sales increased by 5 per cent last year, and De Beers reports similar gains for 1996.

Up to 85 per cent of world diamond production is channelled through the CSO. An exception is the Argyle mine in north-western Australia, which recently withdrew from the CSO cartel, opting instead to sell all its diamonds through its European sales office in Antwerp, Belgium. Argyle accounted for about 6 per cent of diamonds purchased by the CSO.

De Beers was forced to spend considerable amounts mopping up supplies of cheap diamonds from Angola in 1992 and 1993, but leakage from the region has now ceased.

Analysts said the latest price increases would boost margins at De Beers, which reported sales up 8 per cent at \$2.7 billion in the first half of 1996. De Beers accounts for about 50 per cent of CSO sales, and produces 27 million carats a year—up to 15 million tonnes of diamonds. It spent £123 million on advertising last year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sherwood falls after European warning

SHARES of Sherwood, the lace-to-lingerie group, fell 9p to 73p yesterday as the company revealed trading in its European operations had been hit by weak consumer demand. Sales in the core Italian market, which made up half pre-tax profits last year, dropped 17 per cent in the second quarter.

The group also revealed £500,000 restructuring costs in Germany and The Netherlands, where sales have also been lagging. But the UK, which contributes 40 per cent of sales, continued to improve. Jim Teller, managing director, said he expected the Italian situation to improve in the second half, putting the group on course to equal its performance in the second half of 1995. He said the interim was not in danger, and that the group would maintain 1995's half-year payout of 1.5p.

Gardiner advances

THE GARDINER GROUP, the specialist distributor of electronic security and surveillance systems, reported a rise in profits to £2.36 million before tax from £2.07 million in the half year to April 30. Earnings rose to 1.45p a share from 1.28p. The interim dividend is increased to 0.3p a share from 0.27p. Turnover for the period rose to £48.43 million from £44.24 million. The company said almost 30 per cent of sales arose in the sectors of closed-circuit television and fire security.

Court Cavendish ahead

COURT CAVENDISH, the nursing and residential care home group that acquired the rival Greenacre Group for £21.5 million in May, has forecast more consolidation within the sector. Yesterday the company reported adjusted profits of £5.35 million for the year to the end of April, compared with £4.7 million previously. Earnings rose to 21.2p a share (19.8p). The total dividend rises to 5.3p from 4.9p, with a 3.5p final due on August 15. Adjusted profits excluded a £732,000 charge arising from a change in depreciation policy.

Circle at 15p premium

CIRCLE COMMUNICATIONS, the television and cinema rights group, was given a warm welcome to the Alternative Investment Market yesterday, as its shares closed with a premium of 15p on the 170p placing price. The flotation, which was two and a half times subscribed, raised £5.4 million for the company. Its launch was helped by a firm endorsement from its broker, Peel Hunt, which estimated that Circle's 1995 pre-tax profits will be 29 per cent ahead, at £1.45 million.

Buoyant at Uglund

UGLAND INTERNATIONAL, the shipping group, reported brisk business in the first quarter, and Andreas Uglund, chairman, said talks were progressing well on a deal which could lead to the company buying vehicle carrier interest from Andreas Uglund & Sons, a Norwegian shipping group owned by Mr Uglund and his family. At yesterday's annual meeting, Mr Uglund told shareholders: "The group continues to trade profitably... well ahead of levels achieved in the corresponding period last year."

Cirqual to raise £5.35m

CIRQUAL, the aluminium and thermoplastics holdings group, is to be valued at £20 million when it floats on the Alternative Investment Market next Monday. The group, formed last year from two companies, Windmill Extrusions and Aluminium Shapes, is raising £5.35 million from the flotation by placing 27 per cent of its shares at 122p.

ACCOUNTANCY

Auditors' rocky road to Jersey

Prem Sikka criticises firms for wanting the best of both worlds

THE present debate about auditor liability has been largely one-sided. Some (unaudited) figures have been floated to indicate the lawsuits against leading firms. No information has been provided about the actual settlements made as a result of court cases, out-of-court settlements or by partners personally. The firms claim that they spend some 8 per cent of their auditing income on liability costs. But this includes lawsuits which do not relate to auditing, such as Tunstall's lawsuit against Ernst & Young arising from the firm's report on the rights issue made by Sound Diffusion. If the liability costs are related to total known (unaudited) income of the big firms, they come to 2.67 per cent.

Most of the big lawsuits are by the insolvency arms of accountancy firms, as evidenced by the lawsuits relating to the collapse of BCCI, Maxwell, Atlantic Computers, Polly Peck and others. The amounts mentioned in lawsuits may be large, but the actual settlements tend to be small.

While receivers, liquidators and secured creditors benefit from the settlements, it is difficult to recall any instance where ordinary shareholders, unsecured creditors, pension scheme members and other stakeholders have secured any worthwhile compensation from auditors. The auditing indus-

try's campaign has been launched at a time when consumers everywhere demand and expect rights. Auditors do not owe a "duty of care" to any current or potential individual shareholder or creditor, save some exceptional circumstances. In spite of enjoying a statutory monopoly, the firms do not publish any meaningful information about their affairs.

Yet the campaign for further liability concessions has been led by professional bodies who are supposed to be independent regulators and charged with the protection of the interests of audit consumers. In an ideal world, they should have drawn attention to the loss of jobs, savings, investments, pensions and taxation revenues caused by audit failures. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England Wales's (ICAEW) 122-page submission to the Department of Trade and Industry says little about such matters.

After the Companies Act 1985, the firms can form limited liability companies and enjoy the privileges and obligations conferred upon other businesses. A fundamental principle of law has been that those enjoying the benefit of limited liability should make public disclosures about their affairs.

Now the firms want the benefit of limited liability without making any public disclosures. So they have persuaded Jersey to enact Limited Liabil-



Prem Sikka says concessions will be fiercely debated

ity Partnership (LLP) legislation. Under the draft Bill written by Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse, firms located in Jersey will enjoy limited liability without any need to publish information about their affairs. Jersey would collect an annual registration fee. Jersey legislation is unlikely to be very practical. Accountancy firms will not be able to close their doors one day as partner-

ship law developments about third party liability would not be halted.

In cases of dispute, the English courts are unlikely to privilege the Jersey laws since they have not been passed by Parliament. As the firms only plan to register in Jersey and carry on the usual business from England in the usual way, the LLP structure is unlikely to be recognised by the English courts. The road to Jersey is bound to be rocky.

The real intention behind the Jersey option has been to force the British Government to grant concessions to firms. If the LLP structure is imported to the UK, other businesses would also be able to have limited liability without the need for an audit and public accountability. Would auditors, consumers, markets and creditors benefit?

If the Government were to concede a liability "cap" to auditors, it would hardly be able to deny the same to producers of food, drink, medicine and cars. None of this would be welcomed by consumers. Allowing auditors to negotiate liability contracts by amending Section 310 of the Companies Act 1985 will also lead to demands that stakeholders be allowed to impose their preferable audit objectives on auditors. Any attempt to give concessions to an industry already enjoying a statutory monopoly is bound to force a fierce debate.

The author is Professor of Accounting at the University of Essex.

When more is not necessarily better

IT is the oldest dilemma in financial reporting. First there comes some corporate scandal or other. After a considerable delay some guidance or rules are provided to try to stop it happening again. A few years on, when things are quieter and memories have faded, everyone starts asking if all these extra rules are really that necessary after all.

To judge from today's report from Ernst & Young on "Greenbury implementation", the latest area to suffer from this sequence is that of remuneration and benefits. For the man in the middle, in this case Allister Wilson of Ernst & Young, it is an impossible position. Companies need to provide clear disclosure. Auditors need to be able to influence that and certify that it is accurate. If the company's will is not there and the guidance is vague, the auditors have no real power.

This becomes obvious in the section of the report on pension and share option disclosure. After saying that methodologies are difficult to establish, the survey says that "whilst this is

certainly due in no small measure to the technical difficulties involved, it is perhaps not too bold to suggest that vested interests may also have played their part". It continues: "Disclosure of the true value of both pensions and share options could in some cases be highly sensitive. As a result, there may be those who, to misquote St Augustine, pray for consensus—but not yet, or at least not before they have retired."

In conversation, Mr Wilson is clear about the dilemma that companies are creating. "The whole area of pension and share options disclosure has got so out of hand that it is virtually impossible for a reader to understand," he said, citing an example. "I can't make head nor tail of the Marks & Spencer information." But the general point about the state of disclosure remains. "We are being blinded by science," said Mr Wilson. "The information is so dense from most companies. It is as if they had said that they were going to bore us to death with it."

The survey certainly produces more than enough examples where this is true. It quotes in full what BOC and BP said about how their annual performance bonuses were calculated. And then the survey concludes: "Full as these explanations are, neither company actually answers the questions 'What was the target?' and 'How was the bonus calculated?' This is not to criticise the companies in question: the

problem is that, in order to answer these questions, they would have had to give even more information.

"For example, where each director has different objectives, comparisons between them could well be meaningless without further, potentially voluminous, explanation. For this reason," the survey says, "this is one area where we question whether the additional disclosure that companies now feel obliged to give has resulted in a corresponding improvement in the information provided to users."

The survey also picks up where companies have decided happily to ignore the Greenbury spirit. The idea was that executive directors should not serve on audit or remuneration committees. Yet, as the survey shows in the case of Associated British Foods, for example, the chief executive does serve on both committees. As Ernst & Young points out: "Several companies included in our survey noted that the chairman and/or the chief executive is 'invited to attend' meetings of the remuneration committee. It could be that a chief executive attending a remuneration committee by invitation sometimes has substantially the same influence as one attending as a member of the committee."

The answer, of course, is that the rules should follow the spirit. And someone should police them. At present this does not happen. And a plethora of disclosure of confusing information does not help. If nothing else it allows the level of cynicism within companies to increase.

"Every other company," says the survey, "aims to attract, retain and motivate executives in a 'competitive international market' and sets 'challenging' and/or 'demanding' bonus targets." The most worrying development is the obsession company directors have with pay, bonuses and pensions. The most damning comment of all reveals how far people with, at the very least, their brains in the trough, have lost sight of why they have been put in command of the company.

Ernst & Young says: "As auditors we not infrequently observe boards and audit committees of our clients spending almost as much time discussing the directors' remuneration disclosures as the rest of the report and accounts." The firm concludes: "This is not altogether surprising given the sensitivity of such disclosure for the individuals concerned, but it surely represents a serious misdirection of effort."



ROBERT BRUCE

How to hold your drink

IT'S the summer silly season at the English ICA. First came a note saying that this week's council meeting had been cancelled for lack of anything to discuss. Then staff received an internal health and safety newsletter dealing mostly with the danger of spilling drinks. "Spill drinks must be wiped up and reported to the Internal

immediately," it says. "There have been occasions recently where drinks have been spilt in potentially very dangerous areas, eg stairs, and just left!"

It goes on to advise that "drink trays are available, and if you make it a rule to ensure these are always used, spillages will occur less often". It cannot be long before pedestrians in

beware of congas of institute staff weaving through traffic.

Trading places

SIR David Tweedie, newly appointed chairman of the G-11 group of accounting standard-setters, has obviously taken to heart the remark by the head of the US standard-setting body,

ment is "equivalent to assigning a new person to take charge of answering the phone at FASB". Tweedie, at last week's meeting, swapped his "Chairman" sign for "Telephone Operator".

Favourite numbers

THE old rule that any account-

bow-tie ends up in front of the cameras rather than behind a desk has been borne out in the case of John Howell. The former tax inspector and archaeologist, who headed Ernst & Young's Eastern European operations, is to set up a television outfit, Fifth World Productions. They should watch out for his taste in soundtracks. When setting up E&Y's Moscow office, he regularly blasted fellow villagers in Berkshire with selections from

CP 11/10/150

Modest falls in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Top 100 Lumber Companies				Price				High				Low				Price			
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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■ FILM 1

Cruise missile: thrills and spills galore in Brian De Palma's virtuoso *Mission: Impossible*



■ FILM 2

William Blake is on the run in Jim Jarmusch's languorous look at the Wild West, *Dead Man*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

... while shoot-outs and opium dreams mix in *Wild Bill*, the week's other cinematic trip to the American frontier



■ FILM 4

A new print of *The Godfather* proves that when it comes to visual power, no crime movie does it better

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Tom Cruise put his haircut in the front line in *Mission: Impossible*

Choose to accept this mission, OK?

Tom Cruise is suspended from a ceiling, trying to download some of the CIA's most sensitive files in a room wired to respond to anything untoward. In the ducting space above, Jean Reno strains to keep a grip on the wire to which Cruise clings. A mouse ambles up. If Reno twitches, they are doomed. Then a head of sweat falls from Cruise's face in slow motion. If it hits the floor, doom strikes again. If the CIA officer returns from drinking his spiked coffee, doom will strike a third time.

The best of *Mission: Impossible* lies in such scenes. They are outrageous, derivative and great fun. Not since Hitchcock's heyday, perhaps, has a director generated such cheeky suspense, twisting an audience around his little finger. The person responsible is Brian De Palma, who also shows his virtuoso skills by exploding a Prague restaurant and tying a helicopter to a TGV train hurtling from its London terminus through the Channel Tunnel. Since TGV trains only run in France, Cruise's mission at this point is truly impossible, but it makes a spectacular climax.

In between the debris and razzle-dazzle, however, you may be twiddling your thumbs. The scriptwriters are no slouches: between them, they have written *Chinatown*, *Schindler's List* and *Jurassic Park*. But with the Cold War over, Robert Towne, Steven Zaillian and David Koepp clearly had problems reanimating the television series that gave such delight from 1966 to 1973. Easy enough to revive Lalo Schiffrin's bouncy theme tune, or the instructions handed out to agents on a tape that destructs in five seconds. Far harder to make the American Government's Impossible Missions Force relevant to the 1990s. With their fancy gadgets and facial disguises they seem only a few steps from the men from U.N.C.L.E.

As Cruise strives to identify the traitor selling the names of undercover agents, too many characters are killed off too quickly, or stand by idly, or suffer from bizarre casting. Vanessa Redgrave, as the information trader Max, overloads her scenes with class; while Emmanuelle Béart, in her English-language debut, disappears into a hole as the wife of Jon Voight's Jim Phelps (the only character to survive from the TV series). She looks stunning dressed by Armani, but seems afraid her dialogue will bite her.

Cruise himself does not help the film to find a human face, for his



"Not since Hitchcock, perhaps, has a director generated such cheeky suspense, twisting an audience around his little finger": Tom Cruise is blown away by Brian De Palma's expertise

particular qualities of blue-eyed charm are wasted on his action hero, Ethan Hunt by name, who spends much of his time leaping around, surviving explosions, and disguising himself as someone else. He is also burdened with a terrible haircut, a porcupine bristle. Since Cruise is the film's co-producer as well as its box-office magnet, he must have wanted things this way.

At least the hair does not intrude as Cruise is buffeted by fire, water, or a high-speed train. These are the moments worth savouring; it's just one of the peculiarities of modern Hollywood to pin a movie to a star and then crowd him out with special effects. The film, incidentally, was made far from California, in Prague and our own Pinewood Studios. Hollywood travels far these days.

But it never reaches *Dead Man*. Jim Jarmusch's languorous existential western, featuring Johnny Depp as an innocent at large in a frontier world of small-town grunge, vicious hired guns and philosophical Indians. One minute of *Mission: Impossible* contains more action than Jarmusch finds room for in two hours. Aside from the shootings, executed with chilling crispness,

everything happens at an elephant's pace. The virtue of this is that we have time to savour Robby Müller's gorgeous black-and-white photography, and a quirky cast ranging from Robert Mitchum to Iggy Pop. The downside is encroaching boredom.

The opening promises plenty. Depp's natty Cleveland accountant, William Blake by name, travels out West to a roughneck town. Expecting a job from an unhinged Mitchum, he is chased off at gunpoint, and vacates the town pronto after shooting Mitchum's son in a bedroom squabble. In the wilderness, he falls under the protection of Gary Farmer's Nobody, a lone Indian who spouts wise words and blurs Depp's identity with the poet William Blake.

Jarmusch's laconic humour springs assorted delights along the way, but as Blake's wanted man travels to his destiny you gradually feel this beautiful film disappearing into a tunnel. Repetition takes hold. One more cryptic encounter in a dangerous and crazy world. One more chunk of wisdom from Farmer. As Depp slips towards death at an Indian settlement, the film emerges back into the light; but we

Mission: Impossible

Empire, PG, 110 mins
Lousy haircut, but
great set-pieces

Dead Man

Curran West End 18, 121 mins
Jim Jarmusch's unique
existential western

Wild Bill

National Film Theatre,
97 mins
Pretentious drama about
Wild Bill Hickok

The Godfather

Chelsea Cinema 18, 175 mins
Part one of the
Coppola classic

never feel the full emotional effect of a journey that Jarmusch compares to the passage through the surface of a mirror to the unknown world on the other side.

But in this age of popcorn and bedlam you can only admire Jarmusch's tenacity in sticking to

his stylistic guns. He is unlikely to end popular success; unlikely, even, to capture the audiences that enjoyed *Mystery Train* or *Stranger than Paradise*. But he has furthered his art, and made a film that, all flaws acknowledged, sticks obstinately in the mind.

Nothing sticks with *Wild Bill*, the week's second trip to the American frontier, although director Walter Hill tries hard enough to make something distinctive. His script fragments the life of Wild Bill Hickok into endless shoot-outs mixed with opium dreams. Jeff Bridges may look the part, with moustache and hair flowing nicely; but none of Hill's jiggery-pokery brings us close to understanding a nasty man who would shoot you dead for touching his hat. Other characters—such as Ellen Barkin's Calamity Jane and John Hurt's tedious English adventurer (he gets a much better part in *Dead Man*)—grin and grimace, but make little impression.

Time does strange things to old movies. Not that the stature of *The Godfather* has shrunk: revived in a new print, Coppola's opening instalment in Mario Puzo's Corleone

saga, first released in 1972, still appears a towering achievement, a nail-biting drama of loyalty, corruption and revenge that penetrates the heart of darkness in American family life. But gaze into the face of Al Pacino. As Michael Corleone, fresh from the Marines and the Second World War, he looks all of 12. Not one line on his face.

This cannot be said of Marlon Brando, the Godfather himself, who is made up to resemble a sagging prune. The film's first words are "I believe in America"; and Coppola is always careful to place the Mob rivalries, the gunshots, car bombs, the rise of drugs, against the country's postwar culture. The main thrust of the film, though, lies in family matters, and Pacino's gradual absorption into the Corleone business of power, extortion and revenge.

Many crime movies since have splattered the screens with violence. A few, like Scorsese's, have gone behind the bloodshed to probe American society. But none has the organic strength, or visual power, of *The Godfather*. Part two of the saga will be revived in cinemas at the end of July.

'Believe the hype'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases...

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE
Anna Bicknell, 22: Action, action. The plot contains more twists and turns than Spaghetti Junction. Cracking special effects make up for the average performance by Tom Cruise. Jezreel James, 19: A continuous rush of first-class effects and directing. Mediocre performances, but believe the hype.

Sabah Mir, 21: The competent performances of the leading actors served as a backdrop to the special effects wizardry.

Toby White, 22: Brian De Palma recaptures the action genre in two hours of butt-numbing brilliance. James Bond would be proud.

DEAD MAN

Anna: *The Doors* meets *Dances with Wolves*. The plot is undetectable but you cannot fault Depp's acting ability in this surreal western. Neil Young's soundtrack adds to the dreamy atmosphere.

Jezreel: Outstanding direction, with landscape photography reminiscent of Ansel Adams. Graphic and tranquil. Sabah: A barren, dream-like trek with Depp.

Toby: The appearance of many familiar faces does not resurrect this Bergman-influenced contrivance. Even the grainy guitar music seemed like an excuse for surrealism.

THE GODFATHER

Anna: If you've never seen this film before, don't miss it. Classic performances from Brando, Pacino, Caan and Duvall.

Jezreel: I'm speechless. Atmospheric, powerful... a classic. Sabah: A faultless beginning to the *Godfather* trilogy, with emotive direction and legendary performances.

Toby: Finally it comes back to the big screen. Every scene is a classic... Brando impressions can now be perfected!

"Looks beautiful. A director to watch."

— Dick Smith, THE GUARDIAN

A MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTION

FEAST OF JULY

There is no escape from the past.

EXCLUSIVE PRESENTATION FROM FRIDAY JULY 12

ODEON HAYMARKET 0171 839 7697

Bring home the bacon

■ BABE

CIC, U, 1995

THE best family film in ages, adapted from Dick King-Smith's children's book, starring a lovable piglet who develops a knack of herding sheep by politely asking them to move. The animals are real and they speak. Sentiment is balanced by self-mockery, the humour is fresh and intelligent, and Australian director Chris Noonan, in an auspicious debut, serves up a wide range of visual treats. Among the human actors, Magda Szubanski is very funny as farmer Hoggett's bemused wife. Available to rent.

■ DR STRANGELOVE

Columbia TriStar, 15, 1963

STANLEY KUBRICK'S and Terry Southern's black satire on the military mind forfeits some coherence for the sake of Peter Sellers's three character turns: the American President, an RAF captain and a classic mad scientist. But it is still bitterly funny, thought-provoking and a visual stunner, with typically extravagant sets by Bond-film designer Ken Adam.

■ THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET

Electric, 15, 1995

HAS Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: instead of spattering us with crazy fashions and the lively behav-

NEW VIDEO RELEASES



Babe: this little piggy has gone to video rental

iour of the sexually adventurous. Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a midlife crisis over her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper and her work as a romantic author. This could be a recipe for the old farce and caricature, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain and solitude with

touching seriousness. A beguiling film.

■ THE PRIVATE LIFE OF HENRY VIII

Carlton, U, 1933

CHARLES LAUGHTON'S Henry VIII dispatches his wives amid much belching, rolling of eyes, guzzling of chicken legs and general lip-smacking. Alexander Korda's famous drama, a huge popular success, was the first British film to conquer the world. It is far from a masterpiece (Korda's film technique creaks) but, even 60 years on, Laughton's gusto and the script's irreverent air ensure lots of fun. Elsa Lanchester stands out among the wives as Ann of Cleves.

■ THE WAR

CIC, 12, 1994

KEVIN COSTNER returns from Vietnam in 1970, but the war continues with his offspring, whose tearhouse comes under attack from a family of louts. Director Jon Avnet and his players manage a few affecting moments and a few scraps of Southern charm (the setting is Mississippi), though too much is overblown, thrust into our faces for easy effect. Elijah Wood heads the child troupe; he is impressive, as usual. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

"AS ORIGINAL AND INTRIGUING A MOVIE AS HAS EMERGED FROM AMERICA IN A LONG WHILE"

— GEOFF ANDREW, TIME OUT

JIM JARMUSCH

DEAD MAN

NO ONE CAN SURVIVE BECOMING A LEGEND

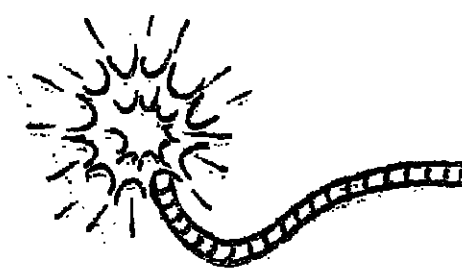
JOHNNY DEPP GARY FARMER LANCE HENRIKSEN MICHAEL WINCOTT

STARTS TOMORROW

ODÉON GATE CINEMA 18

DA DA DADA DA DA DADA DA DA DADA DA DA DADA

DIDDLEO DIDDLEO DIDDLEO DA DA



CHOICE 1

First look at a newly restored print of the classic *Metropolis*

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

CHOICE 2

Singer-guitarist José Feliciano plays a rare Liverpool gig tonight

VENUE: The Institute for Performing Arts

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Carl Davis leads the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in its Summer Pops

VENUE: From tonight in Philharmonic Hall

FILM

A "thriller road movie" wins the Second Times Screenwriting Competition

LONDON

DUCK HUNTING: Alexander Vangelov's drama of a man whose only concern is vodka, women and his longing to shoot a duck. Said to be Chekhov in tone. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sun, 7.30pm. Until July 20.

METROPOLIS: A unique film and music event: the British premiere screening of a newly restored print of Fritz Lang's groundbreaking 1926 silent epic *Metropolis*, accompanied by a live soundtrack composed by Maximal. The "total soundscape" is performed by the Finnish Azzurro ensemble. Ernest Martínez-Querido conducts. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 017-490 4242. Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm.

TIMPAN AND PERCUSSION: The four candidates chosen to play at this year's 20th Shell LSO Music Scholarship final will be given the chance to demonstrate their trumpet and percussion skills, accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra. The demanding repertoire will include the London premiere of Philip Cashian's *Night Journeys*. And the winner will be announced on the night. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Tonight, 7pm.

THE CHOICE: Eve Matheson plays the mother-to-be in Clare Bayley's moving and semi-autobiographical play about living a Down's syndrome child. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

COMEDY OF ERRORS: The New Shakespeare Company's season opens with *Comedy of Errors*, a play about the chaos of a family of five. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Peter Hall's acclaimed Heymeyer production, with Nicola Pegg, David Rintoul, Wendy Hirston, Kim Thomson, George Wilkins and John McCallum. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN: Paul Godfrey updates old Roman comedy (yes) of night-time rape and secret pregnancy. *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

NEW RELEASES

HEAVEN'S PRISONERS (15): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

CONFESSIONS (15): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

BOONLIGHT AND VALENTINO (15): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

THE PASSION OF DARLYN MOON (15): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

SCREAMERS (18): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLUMBIA 0171 632 8300 (24h): *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

OLYMPIA 0171 232 9340: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

ELSEWHERE

LEAMINGTON SPA: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

LIVERPOOL: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

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LONDON GALLERIES

Barclay: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0JN (0171-361 2878). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Thurs (July 4, 11), 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until July 21.

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Barclay: *Metropolis*, 392 Kings Road, SW3 0



DANCE

Michael Flatley takes a giant step forward with his thundering new Irish show, *Lord of the Dance*



THEATRE 1

A light-hearted night out, courtesy of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn's new *By Jeeves*

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2

Joe Orton's outré domestic farce *Loot* makes a limp comeback at the West Yorkshire Playhouse



TOMORROW

More suave sounds from the pop duo of Bernard Sumner and Johnny Marr, better known as Electronic

CLASSICAL RECORDS

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

DOHNANYI

Symphony No 2: Symphonic Minutes

BBC Philharmonic/Barnert Chandos CHAN 9455***

ERNST von Dohnányi, grandfather of the conductor, was one of the most dynamic forces in Hungarian musical life in the early decades of the century. Indeed, so conscientious was he as teacher, administrator, concert pianist and conductor that his own compositional talents were too often neglected. Only in recent decades have they come to be more widely appreciated and this addition to the growing Dohnányi discography should firmly establish his reputation as a composer on a symphonic as well as a chamber scale.

The second of his two symphonies, the E Major, written in 1943-44, seems to reflect the tensions of wartime Budapest (the Nazi threat and eventual occupation). Yet combined with the turmoil and aggression in the first movement is a natural lyricism. The second movement inhabits a less troubled sphere, with tranquil pastoral ideas worked out at length. The Scherzo is a parody march, but the sombre mood returns for the finale.

Matthias Bamert and the BBC Philharmonic respond to these emotional shadings in a powerful performance.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

HAYDN

String Quartets Op 33, Nos 3, 5, 6

The Lindseys ASV CD DCA 938***

WAS it just sales talk when Haydn declared that his Op 33 String Quartets were "written in an entirely new and special way"? He had returned to the medium after a gap of ten years since his Op 20, and they really had shaken things up. The Lindseys can be relied upon to exploit to the full the continuing challenges Haydn set both his players and his listeners.

The quick crescendo of *joie de vivre* at the start of the Quartet No 3 in C is entirely characteristic of both composer and performers, and spirits are kept high by the Lindseys' newly thought-through details of phrasing and articulation. The Largo of the Fifth Quartet in G is an operatic aria; its Scherzo nicely astringent with offbeats. In the Quartet No 6 in D, solo aria turns to subdued converse, continued in the leisurely variations of the last movement and interrupted only by a scherzo of strange, springing stresses relished by the Lindseys in every nervous twitch.

MUSICALS

John Higgins

THOMAS HAMPSON

Leading Man

American Theatre Orchestra/Gemignani Angel CDC 7243 5

55249 2***

THOMAS HAMPSON has to be the best leading man never to have appeared on Broadway. He commands the presence and the voice. But he has stayed with the opera house, concert hall and recital room, keeping musicals strictly for the studios.

There are *Phantom* and *Beasts* on this CD, courtesy of Lloyd Webber and Walt Disney respectively, and the American Theatre Orchestra thumps out a solid contemporary beat. Hampson handles these with all his usual skill, always phrase-perfect, but his real home is with the romantic numbers used by Howard Keel, Robert Goulet and even Louis Jourdan to sweep leading ladies off their feet.The title song from *Gigi* shows Lerner and Loewe at their most inspired. Similarly, *Hey there*, from the almost forgotten *The Pajama Game*, is one of Frank Loesser's choicest numbers, and here Hampson is joined by that old charmer, John Raitt.

Hampson may have declined Broadway but he sends his best regards.

★ Worth hearing

★★ Worth considering

★★★ Worth buying

Celtic swing: Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance* develops some of the simple but revolutionary ideas that made *Riverdance* such a popular international success

Old Ireland's heart and sole

Luke Clancy enjoys the next steps in the popular revival of Irish dance that began with *Riverdance*

Beginning life as an interval act in Europe's least-loved television show, *Riverdance* did little to advance the simple, probably brilliant and revolutionary notion that had popped up at the Eurovision Song Contest: that Irish folk dance, with a little work, could be polished up into mass entertainment for an international audience.

The show, however, only partially explored this attractive, and potentially lucrative idea. It framed its star, the Chicago-born Michael Flatley, in a new world of dance, positioning Irish dancing as part of a trundling rhythmic continuum that hopped, skipped and jumped through jazz, tap and flamenco. The

show's most obvious limitation, however, was that it did not attempt to do much more than this. *Lord of the Dance*, Flatley's own vehicle, for all its monolithically professional staging, is a little bit more experimental.

Riverdance may have introduced the vocabulary of the new Irish dance—chorus lines and curly hair, Celtic swirls and plaintive airs; *Lord of the Dance* begins to make sentences. Instead of offering a sequence of basically unrelated dance routines, *Lord of the Dance*

Lord of the Dance

The Point, Dublin

opts for a plot. True, the story is reminiscent of one of Disney's narrative-by-numbers creations, but it is still useful, making the show seem less arbitrary, and also managing to camouflage its contrivance. Like any good ballet plot, this tale of the struggle of good and evil among the ancient clans serves best to hold together Flatley's frenetically

choreographed set-pieces. As the massed ranks of dancers tap thunderously across the stage through blizzards of dry ice and raking lights, headlong energy soon seizes control.

As Jonathan Park's stage design shifts confidently between a glittering, dreamland of gargantuan Celtic flourishes and a nastier, industrial environment, Flatley's choreography traces a path from languorous solo work to brash and energetic martial pieces. Large ensemble works, such as the particularly

effective celebratory *Siamsa* section, give way to *sean-nós* laments, while traditional Irish music in turn comes nose to nose with sturdy electro-funk.

Despite some fresh juxtapositions, particularly in sound and setting, *Lord of the Dance* is hardly full of surprises. It lacks almost nothing in pace or energy but seldom threatens to become resonant or moving, especially when Flatley is offstage. There is a surge in intensity each time he retakes the stage, but Flatley frequently allows his supporting cast to absorb the benefits of this energy.

As lord of this dance, Flatley makes an unexpectedly meek master.

THEATRE: Ayckbourn and Lloyd Webber revisit a flop and make it a triumph; Orton outshone by Wordsworth

Very good, sir and Sir

By Jeeves
Duke of York's

A theatrical turkey can sometimes be made to take wing, provided the creative boffins work long, hard and well on its body structure. That would seem to be the moral of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn's joint reworking of P.G. Woodhouse, *By Jeeves*. Twenty-one years ago the musical was the biggest flop that either the composer or the dramatist had seen, and now here it is again, skimming back into the West End as lightly and light-heartedly as a canary on the loose.

There were obvious doubts before Tuesday's London first night. We tend to forget what a difference the size and shape of a theatre can make to the experience of enjoying a show. The first version of *By Jeeves* seemed hopelessly lost in the vast late-Victorian canyons of Her Majesty's, and even then would have been better suited to Scarborough's tiny, intimate theatre-in-the-round, where the revised version had its premiere just a few weeks ago. How would it fare in the Duke of York's, a conventional playhouse that has a conventional auditorium but is relatively very well, as it turns out. That is thanks not only to the radical cuts and revisions made by Lloyd Webber and Ayckbourn, but also to Ayckbourn's unpretentiously affable direction. He has brought the same, strong Scarborough cast down to

London, and the cast has brought the same rough-theatre decor. Two cardboard boxes, an upturned table, an old sofa—and, lo, we have a car for Steven Pacey's ebullient Bertie Wooster to drive through the imaginary countryside.

We still begin with Malcolm Sinclair's wonderfully supercilious Jeeves hiding the banjo with which Bertie plans to enliven a village concert, and Bertie promptly substituting a series of improvised anecdotes from the Drones Club archives. That admittedly leads to some irritatingly Pirandellian banter—"I think the story's in need of a...". "A *deus ex machina*, sir?" "That's the chap, Jeeves"—but it adds to the informal, end-of-term feel of what ensues.

So what ensues? Bertie, Gussie Fink-Nottle, Bingo Little *et al* continually and hilariously swap identities as they battle to salvage love and cover up embarrassing errors, causing confusion galore in the process. There is a blissful scene in which Bertie passes himself off as a hat-stand in a vain attempt to avoid the notice of the grim magistrate, Sir Watkyn Bassett. There's another in which he and his chums convince a sententious but menacing American jam-magnum, Cyrus Budge III, that ceaselessly shaking hands

and reintroducing yourself is *de rigueur* in polite England.

Ayckbourn certainly fulfils his stated aim, concocting a show that is "light, fun and silly", and Lloyd Webber is on fine form too. He matches the Sandy Wilson of *The Boy Friend* for jauntiness and period pastiche, adds the odd Gilbertian patter-song, and in *Half a Moment* and *That Was Nearly Us* creates two numbers that need only a little adjustment to throb as agreeably as *Memory* does in *Cats* or *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina* in *Evita*. No wonder the evening left me in a nice, upbeat mood.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALESteven Pacey, Lucy Tregear (Honorata Glossop) and Malcolm Sinclair in *By Jeeves*

A Dorothy at the end of the rainbow

Exquisite Sister/Loot
West Yorkshire Playhouse

FOR years literary history largely ignored Dorothy Wordsworth, devoted sister of William. Now, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse's Studio, an impressive if unpruned one-woman dramatization of Dorothy's diaries makes her the centre of attention. In *Exquisite Sister*, Kelly Hunter's Dorothy, although simultaneously a little girl who never grew up, looms large.

Breathlessly fast-talking and forever busy, Hunter's Dorothy is both charismatically sweet and verging on the unstable, innocently yet passionately, enthusiastically yet berringly signs of repressed anxieties. The intensity of the performance makes Dorothy's daily entries concerning the life she shared with her brother in their cottage in the Lake District absorbing. However, the director

Simon Usher aggrandises Dorothy, hailing her as a genius. Memoirs logging a week's weather can be a bore.

Nevertheless, this beautifully staged chamber production cherishes life's small details. At their best, Dorothy's simple descriptions of nature can outshine her educated brother's poetries. This piece is not concerned with famous names and grand artistic or political movements, but is an intimate study of a sister, a brother and painful tenderness.

Opening in the main house, Joe Orton's outré domestic farce *Loot* seems comparatively slack. Still, the sick absurdities do

mount up entertainingly as Hal and his mate Dennis bundle the former's embalmed mum in and out of the wardrobe, and swag spills out of her coffin. John Alderton stars as the ridiculously hackneyed, insanely clueless Inspector Truscott. Sucking on his pipe, stiffly scouting about for concealed evidence when the corpse is staring him in the face, Alderton becomes amusingly entangled in a folding screen. When Truscott puts the boot into his suspects, though, Alan Strachan's production might give Orton's satire of the police a darker twist. Ifan Meredith (Hal) has the seeds of loutish swagger, but Mark Dexter's slick Dennis, with more edge and some winningly silly innocent poses, steals the limelight.

KATE BASSETT

Serious action under the sheets

RADIO

THE arrival of a single monolith covering the BBC's television and radio output has been heralded in small ways for some time, not least through an increasing amount of cross-promotion. This has included television trailers for *A Book at Bedtime*, a steamy extract over the caption: "Listen to other people making love in your bed".

But wait a minute: there appears to be an identity clash here. The notional purpose of adding a second book slot, *The Late Book*, to Radio 4's output was to deal with more "adult" themes. Yes, but the advertising agency asked to promote *A Book at Bedtime* decided that a breathless Collette extract would be just the ticket.

Also, *The Late Book* does not seek to take "adult" as a euphemism for sex. "A more difficult listen" is the phrase that emanates from Broadcasting House in seeking to explain what *The Late Book* is all about. Certainly Richard Ford's *The Sportswriter*, which began a 12-part serialisation last night, requires patience and concentration.

Ford is among my favourite writers and *The Sportswriter* is his best novel. The tale of a man whose life is slowly falling apart after a failed marriage and the death of his son is told in deceptively gentle tones, perfectly replicated by Ron Berglas in this rendition.

As with much of *The Late*

Book's output, *The Sportswriter* has no "hooks"—dramatic climaxes in the soap-opera vein designed to have listeners gnawing at their nails until the next episode. Thank heaven for a slot that relies on literary merit to hold the audience.

And it works. The interesting thing about *A Book at Bedtime* and *The Late Book* is that they are ratings, as well as cultural, successes. They give Radio 4 a dominant share of the total radio audience late at night, thus refuting the myth that phone-ins and pop are all that people want from radio at that hour.

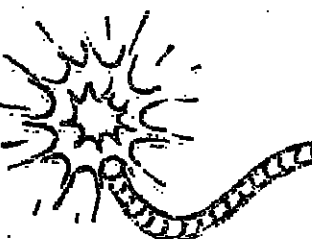
About 300,000 people listen to *A Book at Bedtime* (10.45pm), which is double Radio 4's mid-evening audience, which falls away after *The Archers*. *The Late Book* (12.30am) attracts 100,000 listeners. This is largely a new audience, because Radio 4 used to switch to the World Service at that time.

A Book at Bedtime is one of radio's oldest staples, having been launched in 1949. *The Late Book* began in October last year and announced its sophisticated intentions by starting with Martin Amis's *The Information*. The only unanswerable question for both programmes is how many of the listeners are actually in bed.

PETER BARNARD

DA DA DADA DA DA DADA DIDDLEOO DIDDLEOO DIDDLEOO

DA DAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAAAAA!



Everyone needs a guru, says Anita Desai. But how to choose among them?

Seductive voices in the mind's mountains

Throw the word "guru" into a pond and immediately you see not just ripples — of amusement, mockery or curiosity — but a positive churning of emotional responses. Jim Jones, David Koresh, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh — the very names seem to call for pronounced views, emphatically voiced.

So it is salutary to find that Anthony Storr begins his study of these controversial characters by reminding readers that guru is a Sanskrit word that means "one that brings light out of darkness". In India it is used as much for a teacher — say, of music — as for a spiritual guide or leader. Storr goes on to broaden our concept of a guru by adding to his list Rudolf Steiner, Jung, Gurdjieff, Freud, Jesus and Ignatius Loyola.

Why did he not add the scientists who have altered our understanding of the universe and who have attracted both followers and detractors, or artists and writers who have influenced our ways of thinking? Storr has considered the matter but chosen to follow the *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary's* definition of guru as "a spiritual teacher".

FEET OF CLAY
A Study of Gurus
By Anthony Storr
HarperCollins, £18
ISBN 0 00 255563 8

Throughout his study he has avoided, to an exemplary degree, any note of the kind of hysteria that is the usual response to the idea of a guru. Instead he has brought to the subject the calm understanding and the cool analysis that he has obviously been trained to command as a psychiatrist. The style is that of a genial lecture sprinkled judiciously with lively anecdotes and examples to support his admirably balanced point of view. The two-hundred-odd pages are not only concise and lucid but entertaining to read.

By unravelling the histories of his chosen cast of characters, he has found evidence to support his view that gurus do indeed suffer from a form of insanity. What else can possibly explain their claims to be receivers of divine revelations and receptacles of new theories about the universe which actually cannot stand up to scientific investigation? (Here Storr places the Christian belief in the Virgin birth, the Resurrection and the immortality of the soul in the same category as the Hindu and Buddhist belief in the transmigration of souls.)

In some cases gurus may suffer from impairment due to the influence of drugs or alcohol, or even brain tumours or infections, but on the whole Storr thinks their mental disturbances are due to manic depression or schizophrenia or simply middle-class crisis. Yet few of them become psychotic patients or end up in mental asylums. Probably they only undergo temporary periods of acute depression (the traditional spell of praying and fasting in the desert) but, to quote Henri Ellenberger, "the subject emerges from his ordeal with a permanent transformation of his personality and the conviction that he has discovered a great truth or a new spiritual world", not so very different from the "solution" to a problem that might come to a scientist, or an artist, after an intense period of study, thought and brooding.

The artist and scientist, however, will move on to new problems and the search for fresh solutions. Not so the guru who has acquired an holistic



Dangerous guide: the cult leader Jim Jones orchestrated the suicide of 912 followers in Guyana in 1978

philosophy that suffices in all circumstances, and that cannot be submitted to critical questioning, investigation or alteration.

He must, however, convince others of his rightness. As Rajneesh said: "There are fictions when society supports you, and there are fictions when nobody supports you. That is the difference between a sane and an insane person; a sane person is one whose fiction is supported by society. An insane man is one whose fiction is supported by nobody."

Clearly a guru needs followers but the truth is that everyone needs a guru. Rajneesh also called man "the least natural of animals": one so poorly adapted to the world that he constantly needs to learn how to be, not having the built-in behaviour patterns of creatures lower on the evolutionary scale. This requires that he retain a characteristic of childhood which is to see the teacher not merely as an instructor but as a role model.

Freud first warned against this phenomenon, which he called transference — in which the patient attributes the ideas and attitudes of previous authority figures to the analyst — but he himself succumbed to it. A guru is easily idolised and invested with magical powers. He can also be blamed when anything goes wrong and disasters occur.

Storr ends his thesis by stating that whereas a man's beliefs do not make him sane or insane, his behaviour does. He warns against gurus who exert control over their followers' lives, who claim divine authority, who pursue their goals obsessively, become self-absorbed and inaccessible and draw distinctions between "them" and "us".

In Storr's book there are good gurus and bad gurus (Steiner and Jung are to him good gurus) and we can read his book as a guide in our search for them. Better still, he

advises, "join one of the many organisations devoted to helping refugees, the poor, the sick and the unfortunate". He quotes Euripides as saying: "The wisest men follow their own direction. And listen to no prophet guiding them."

All eminently sensible advice, simple and bracing. Unfortunately, reducing this most complex of relationships to such a level of practicality does not quite make sense — not the kind of intuitive sense by which most of us live. On the contrary, one knows in one's heart that human impulses, needs and motives are all much darker, much more tangled and resistant to sense.

"O the mind, mind has mountains/Cliffs of fall fearful..." wrote Gerard Manley Hopkins. Somehow it seems doubtful that one would take Storr's guide if they had to be traversed. One could turn to Hopkins, to Dostoevsky, to Celan, not to the kindly, cheerful good sense of a psychiatrist.

Wi' love o'ercome

Karl Miller

ROBERT BURNS
The Tinker Heart
By Hugh Douglas
Alan Sutton, £17.99
ISBN 0 7500 1215 8

He felt and he wrote and he forgot." Charlotte, in Jane Austen's novel *Sanditon*, says this to a silly baronet who is going on about the delicious Robert Burns and his "sovereign impulses of illimitable ardour". Ever since he leapt to fame with the publication of the Kilmarnock edition of his poems in 1786, his public has been engrossed by what Charlotte calls "poor Burns's known irregularities". These will never be fully known, but biographers still struggle to identify his girlfriends. You'd think they'd have said to themselves what one girl was rumoured to have said to Burns: "I might as well lay down my basket."

James Boswell lived the patrician life only a few fields away from him in Ayrshire, though the two never met. Both have been known for the same irregularities, but Burns's have been more severely blamed, while also more loved.

The Burns thing has from the first been both poetic and erotic. Out of the West had sprung a self-proclaimed "simple bard", a spouter of "wild effusions", who felt as he wrote and could be seen as an astonishingly gifted peasant and as a child of nature. Nature had caused his eye to glow and to rove. Edinburgh could perceive him to be coarse and vulgar, though a fine man for all that, and to this day, biographers describe as coarse poems by him on sexual subjects, and in Scots, which are, as poems, fastidiously precise.

A brilliant, bragging section in his letters deals with a passage of lovemaking with the local girl soon to be his wife and characterised by Burns himself as "vulgar" in a

letter to an Edinburgh goddess shortly before. It then sings the praises of a male part which has often gone unsung, commending it as a peace-maker between men and women: "the umpire, the bond of union, the solemn league and covenant, the plenipotentiary, the Aaron's rod, the Jacob's staff..."

An "incredible outburst", Hugh Douglas writes, and he invokes Hans Hecht ("unsurpassable vulgarity") as someone who "speaks for all" on the painful subject of this outburst. Last year's impressive Burns biography by Ian McIntyre can't be doing with the passage either. Douglas does add, however, that "some women with whom I have discussed this letter have expressed an opinion that Jean may have been a willing party to the sexual intercourse". I certainly hope so.



Burns: fastidious, not coarse

Burns, he writes, was "a genius at loving as well as a genius at composing verse". Another of these female informants, who hails from the Borders, fancies the deceased poet and testifies: "If there were someone around like Burns today, I would be making a pass at him."

Hugh Douglas can understand how she feels, and he ardently praises the eroticism which he has elsewhere ardently blamed. He says, in his praising mode, that Burns "exalted" in the sexuality of the people around him, and that it is ignorant to claim that he was ever disrespectful to women: never mind those passages where they are compared to larks and partridges plucked from the air by sporting Rab the Ramier.

The ignorant have included Jane Austen, as well as Robert Louis Stevenson, whose strictures on Burns's Don Juanism are thought by some to have cost him a statue in his native Edinburgh. By the end of the 19th century Burns had joined the immortals, and the respectable had come to make less of the perception that he was coarse and vulgar.

The "tinder" heart of Mr Douglas's title is Burns's stab at accounting for his irregularities. The expression is prominently featured in Ian McIntyre's biography, which carries a footnote mentioning a spiteful lawyer's report that another of Burns's goddesses had bad teeth but, "fortunately", a very small mouth. Miss Eliza's good fortune is here promoted to the main text. This contribution to the observance of the bicentenary of Burns's death is that of an Ayrshire farmer's son, who was born near Alloway.

Saga saga, not Aga saga

Jasper Rees

TROLLS' CATHEDRAL
By Olafur Gunnarsson
Mares Nest, £8.95
ISBN 1 859197 30 3

IT IS SAID that there are seven basic plots, but did the news ever reach Iceland? The saga has been getting by on just the one for centuries: man succumbs to dark fate represented by unforgiving landscape. It is a vagrant, morally unsettled form of storytelling on the same wavelength, and longitude, as Dostoevsky. But for the Russian soul substitute Icelandic spirit (most of it alcoholic).

It's business as usual in *Trolls' Cathedral*, an all-too-rare appearance of modern Icelandic fiction in English. They're all here: the bad visions, dire birds, weird trees, impromptu maimings and ill-luck that have been embalmed in the Nordic saga.

Relocated to the 1950s, they prey on the family of Sigurbjorn Helgason, an unhinged architect whose loopy pipe-dream is to build a version of Gaudi's *Sagrada Família* on his native soil. The short-term aim, hampered by financial worry, is to erect Iceland's first department store, a kind of shining lay cathedral and a symbol of Iceland's effort to emancipate itself from its lowering past.

Sigurbjorn's own *familia*, erected on rickety foundations, is anything but *sagrada*. He is shadowed by the memory of his saintlier brother, who died when young. His father-in-law, the novel's one wholly comic figure, is a whingeing Steptoesque skinflint. A daughter is accused of thieving on the job. His youngest son Thorarinn, who takes a summer job as a butcher's errand boy, is assaulted and raped in the shell of the not yet occupied store.

As soon as you meet him you want to bring this scampy know-all down a peg or two, but not so far. It is this event that triggers the slow denaturation predicted in the nightmares of Sigurbjorn's wife. Like the Icelandic patronymic that reprises the father's Christian name in the child's surname, we're in a world where one generation hands

down its problems to the next. Is this novel sounding gloomy? Several acres of it, largely the first half set in summer, actually aren't. Gunnarsson presents a pleasant Reykjavik peopled by shopkeepers and gossips and venial *petit bourgeois*, from whose tidy ways this blighted family contrives to veer. And you could almost commend this *marvellous*, perhaps slightly flabby fable for the names alone. The events that colour local lives occur at places like Skolavorduholt, Bokhlodustigur and Tryggvaskali, names which give a whiff of the banquet you pass on when consuming this book in translation. (The family live in the relatively pronounceable Sjalnargata.)

There is one son, by the way, who appears to have escaped the menace of fate. Helgi is a footballer who plays for Iceland and does so well he ends up alongside Tommy Lawton in an Arsenal jersey. He scores twice on his debut and returns triumphantly home for the summer. But the nastiness the novel stores up for him is rough treatment even for an Arsenal player.

Charting the wild landscape of emotion

Erica Wagner

THE BEST OF
YOUNG AMERICAN
NOVELISTS
Granta, £7.99
ISBN 0 90 314101 9

This issue of *Granta*, number 54, has produced the usual outcry occasioned by lists prefaced with "best of". Who are these people? As in a war, a roster of the missing is produced. Where is Donna Tartt? Nicholson Baker? Bret Easton Ellis? These are the names most easily associated with the words Young American Novelists and yet — nothing.

The fuss is similar to the furor that greeted *Best of Young British Novelists* in 1993. What was in wasn't good enough, the best writers were missing: perhaps it is best to admit that whenever there is a list of any sort, some people won't be on it and some people won't be happy. Reading speaks to the soul, and as every soul is singular a "best" produced by consensus is likely to delight no one entirely.

Tom Drury's father worked for the Chicago Great Western Railroad and his mother for

People's Gas and Electric of Mason City, Iowa. Fae Myenne Ng was born in San Francisco: her father was a merchant seaman and her mother a seamstress in the sweatshops of Chinatown. Chris Ofili grew up in the Appalachians: Madison Smart Bell was born in Tennessee: Edwidge Danticat in Haiti. Here, between paper covers, is the wide and wild geography of America.

Geography played a significant part in the making of this volume. These 20 writers were chosen — by national judges Ian Jack, Anne Tyler, Robert Stone and Tobias Wolff — from five shortlists that had been produced by region. To some this division has seemed arbitrary: why not group writers alphabetically? So many from A — D, another bunch from E — H, and so on. Martin Amis (in the first *Granta Best of Young British Novelists* in 1983) had his doubts: "There is nothing to stop all the best living in New

York or Chicago," he has said. But Jack wanted to take into account "the size and spread of American publishing". In doing so he and his fellow judges have revealed the scope of a country whose size still daunts, and whose variety, despite the homogenisation induced by McDonald's and motel chains, still amazes.

"Where the orchards ended, the world began — buttes, coulees, canyons, sagelands, arid expanses of infinite reach, all sun-drenched, forlorn and lonesome," writes David Guerson in *Apples*, an extract from his new novel, set in Washington State. Guerson, whose novel *Snow Falling on Cedars* has been a bestseller, is one of a very small number of well-known names among the 20. *Apples* is a polished, bleak piece about a boy's coming-of-age in the face of his mother's death.

As in many of these pieces, the interior landscape has as much significance as the exterior. Although set against a vast and changeable backdrop, most of these stories (and most do work as stories, even if they are extracts from novels) look in, not out. Tony Early's *Birthday Boy* turns ten, and discovers that hoeing a 30-acre field of corn involves not only



Elizabeth McCracken: the debut of a vivid storyteller

endless labour but the discovery that one lie upsets the whole foundation of truth. Sherman Alexie's *Integration* belies its title: his lone Indian in a white society is praised for his success, but anger boils inside him and he dreams of his vanished Indian mother. Lorrie Moore's *Agnes of Iowa*

is an examination of a marriage whose surface is rippled by the appearance of a writer with eyes "as blue and scornful as mints".

The judges were curious about this aspect of these writers' work: Tobias Wolff found it "well-behaved" (surely qualified praise, even when

applied to small children) and regretted the lack of "deranged ambition". There is something small about most of these pieces: they seem contained, focused on the small centre of self, a little unwilling to look outward at the wide horizons that many of them depict, geographically speaking, so well.

The bolder pieces stand out. Elizabeth McCracken's first novel, *The Giant's House*, will be published later this year: her account of a librarian's love for the fabulously tall James Carlson Sweat is vivid and unusual, and possesses the greatest virtue of a mere extract from a novel can have: its end incites frustration. Mona Simpson's *The Driving Child* crystallises the tentative, spooked imagination of a girl whose journey is not her own.

It may be true that this is a cautious, somewhat introspective collection. But it does span a continent: it does bring to light writers whose work will not be known to British readers; it might make these readers curious to see what else is out there. That is what collections like this one should be about, and in that Ian Jack and his co-judges — for all their doubts and prevarications — have succeeded.

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Secretive revelations

Howard Davies is intrigued by the hints in a novelist's alternative autobiography

My Other Life is (I think) a highly ambitious piece of work which almost comes off triumphantly and which will entertain and enlighten all whom Theroux has touched in the past. But the parenthetic "I think" is not just a piece of throat-clearing punctuation. Because from time to time, as I meandered through the series of episodes that make up a somewhat disjointed whole, a quite different characterisation came to mind.

Just suppose, I thought, Theroux and his publisher are having us all on. Just suppose they have put between hard covers a series of offcuts from travel books, and half-worked autobiographical sketches, then marketed the whole as a novel. The fact that they have chosen to put "a novel" on the dust cover suggests that someone at Hamish Hamilton may also have harboured this unworthy notion, or at least suspected that a cynical reviewer might just do so.

For a moment, though, let us set aside the thought that this might not be, as old-school bankers say, "true bill" and examine what Theroux has

MY OTHER LIFE
By Paul Theroux
Hamish Hamilton, £16
ISBN 0 241 13503 6

served up on his 22nd foray into fiction.

We find 18 sketches, all in the first person, spanning 30 years. Some are explicitly narrated by a man called "Paul Theroux"; in others the first person identity is less clear, and in one or two a different name is used. But the narrative voice is consistent, and such loose cross-references as there are tend to point to the notion of one identity.

This "Paul Theroux", though, is not necessarily, or perhaps even is necessarily not, Paul Theroux. A teasing note tells us: "This is the story of a life I could have lived had things been different; an imaginary memoir... I was entirely driven by my alter ego's murmur of 'what if?' A quote from Jorge Luis Borges appears before sketch one: 'I do not know which of us has written this page.'"

The false memoir is not, of course, an unknown form. In France there is a lot of it about. In their different ways, Proust and Gide laboured in similar vineyards. The results can be arch, but the format can, in the

right hands, be liberating and exciting. At times, *My Other Life* is both. The second memoir here, *The Lepers of Mayo*, which tells of young "Paul's" time at a leper colony in up-country Malawi, is compelling. I wanted more of his affair with the leprosy Amina, which ends abruptly. But young people do create complex and promising relationships, then get on a train and leave them behind.

I wanted more, too, of *Poetry Lessons* in which our hero — now in Singapore — forsakes his low-paid teaching job for the doubtful role of poetry tutor to Harry Lazard, an arms salesman making his pile from the Vietnam War. Again, the exit line comes too soon. But it is believable, as Mrs Lazard takes against Paul

for rebuffing her unsavory advances and he has to flee. By contrast, I could have done with a lot less of *Lady Max*. "Paul" has now come to London, and has already published one or two books rather like Paul's. Or it may be that "Paul" has come not to London but to "London". Certainly, the natives talk strangely. Diners ask: "Has this wine corked?" Englishmen mysteriously ask

each other in their clubs whether their son's comprehensive is expensive.

More importantly, Lady Max is a two-dimensional character like someone from *The Avengers* or, even worse, *The New Avengers*: a TV producer's idea of a society hostess. She left "Paul" confident of a time when I would write about her and her city. Sadly, that time has come.

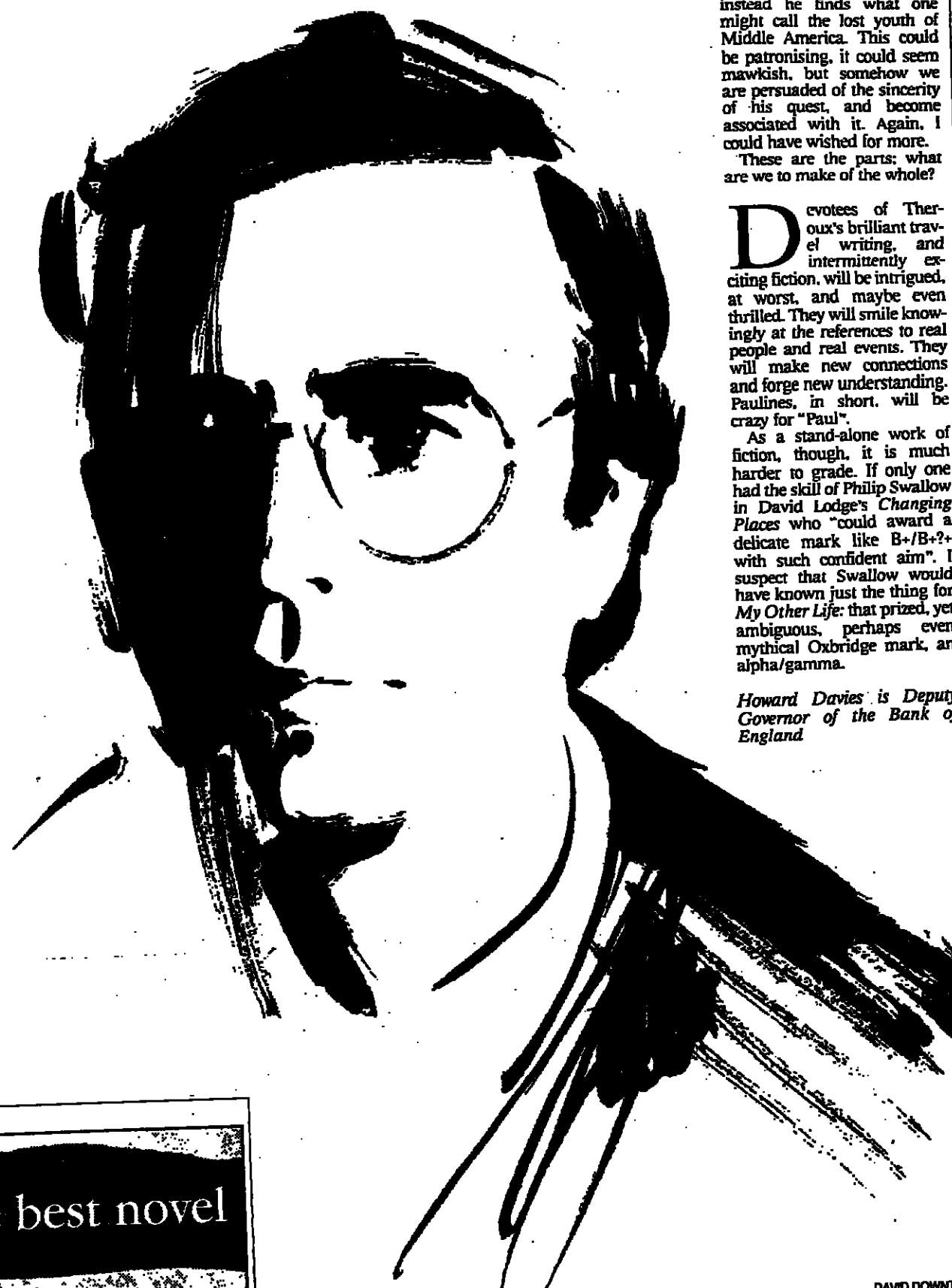
Best perseverance: things look up. Back in the States, "Paul", wifeless and touchingly unsure, goes in search of his roots in Massachusetts. He patrols his own home town in search of childhood friends; instead he finds what one might call the lost youth of Middle America. This could be patronising, it could seem mawkish, but somehow we are persuaded of the sincerity of his quest, and become associated with it. Again, I could have wished for more.

These are the parts; what are we to make of the whole?

Devotees of Theroux's brilliant travel writing, and intermittently exciting fiction, will be intrigued, at worst, and maybe even thrilled. They will smile knowingly at the references to real people and real events. They will make new connections and forge new understanding. Paulines, in short, will be crazy for "Paul".

As a stand-alone work of fiction, though, it is much harder to grade. If only one had the skill of Philip Swallow in David Lodge's *Changing Places* who "could award a delicate mark like B+/B-? with such confident aim". I suspect that Swallow would have known just the thing for *My Other Life*: that prized, yet ambiguous, perhaps even mythical Oxbridge mark, an alpha/gamma.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England



DAVID DOWNTON



An early view of the cosmos: 16th-century woodcut of the junction of Heaven and Earth

Poetry of the stars

Lewis Wolpert

COMPANION TO THE COSMOS
By John Gribbin
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 31725 6

size of a large cathedral. One is led from black holes to Einstein's general theory of relativity. I think I have, at last, grasped why light is bent by gravity and how Einstein came to his great idea by thinking about the free fall of someone in a lift.

Random openings can give quite rich rewards. There is William Herschel, who arrived in England in 1757 and made such important contributions to astronomy; but William's sister Caroline's role is now recognised as being much greater than previously thought. The standard unit of astronomical distance is not the commonly used light year — about ten

million million kilometres — but the parsec, which is about three times longer.

But what was there before the Big Bang and why did it happen? The answer seems to lie with singularities. It turns out that a singularity is a place where the laws of physics as we know them break down. This comes as something of a shock, for one might have thought that there are laws to account for such a breakdown. There is, however, cosmic censorship — the hypothesis that there must be a law of physics which has not yet been discovered which deals with this and ensures that time travel, alas, is not possible.

Worse still, there are those who argue that the idea of cosmic censorship itself is not correct; perhaps we should treat with some caution the idea that there might be a Theory of Everything encapsulated in an equation that could be written on a physicist's T-shirt.

And yet it is astonishing that physicists know so much about things that are so far away and with such an ancient history. If you want to know, you will find it here.

Professor Lewis Wolpert is chairman of the Committee on the Public Understanding of Science

Freshwater fiction

Ian McIntyre

TENNYSON'S GIFT
By Lynne Truss
Hamish Hamilton, £16
ISBN 0 241 13521 4

I must declare a prejudice. I had a BBC colleague once who sent holiday postcards from the Greek islands to his teddy bear. The way Lynne Truss used to write about her cat in this paper made me suspect she probably did the same. When it wasn't her cat, it was the joys and miseries of living alone again after mistaking the man in her life — the sort of thing Mrs Dale might have penned if, instead of marrying Jim, she had gone to Sussex University, majored in English and Media Studies and been unduly influenced by Stevie Smith.

I now realise this was a smokescreen. Behind it Miss Truss was gorging herself on the poetry of Tennyson, the novels of Muriel Spark and the films of Jacques Tati. *Alice in Wonderland* has a strong appeal for her, and so, I suspect, does *Cold Comfort Farm*. She is knowledgeable about the absurdities of phrenology and the oddities of the Pre-Raphaelites and she has thought herself most convincingly into the mid-Victorian mind. The result is a comic novel of subtle distinction.

"Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight, in the last week of July 1864." Although Truss sets her scene in appropriately period style, she has no qualms about jumping out of period by inviting us to imagine the island as a pair of pursed lips or slipping in the occasional un-Victorian "There you go".

Enter Alfred Tennyson — "the greatest, touchiest and dirtiest living poet". Freshwater is his refuge from tourists and disagreeable reviews (*Enoch Arden* has just appeared). A tobacco-stained Prospero, he strides about his kingdom, insisting each morning that his wife check their sons for signs of madness.

Truss marshals a starry supporting cast. Next door lives the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, "her fingers blackened by the chemicals to the state of rotten bananas". Desperate to have her beloved Alfred sit for her, she paints her red roses white as a valentine to him.

The teenage Ellen Terry is there, too, five months into her not very exciting first marriage. So is her tight-fisted husband, the painter G.F. Watts ("His most vivid emotional engagement had been, in childhood, with a small caged cockney sparrow, which he had tragically murdered by trapping its head in a door").

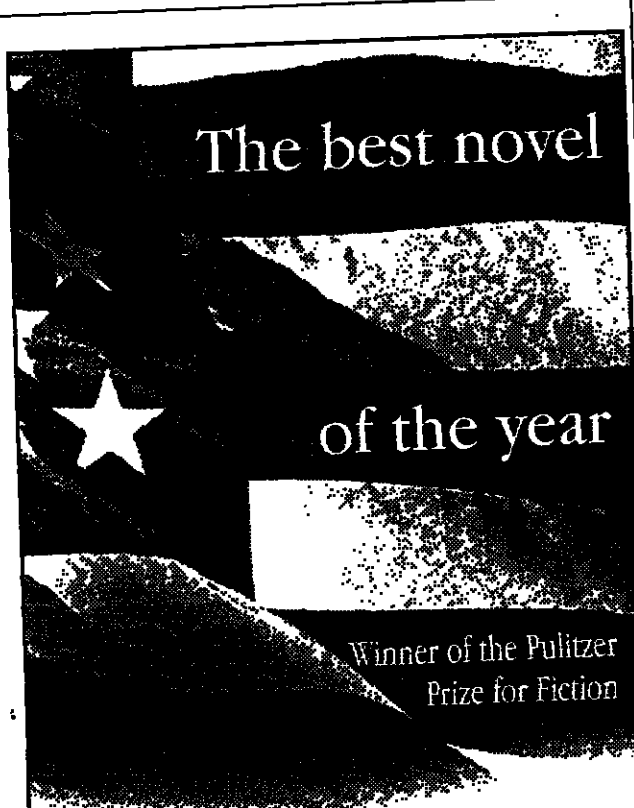
We also meet Lorenzo Fowler, the American vegetar-

ian and phrenologist ("He had recently located the Organ of Human Nature and discovered — by happy accident — that on his own head it was massive"). Jessica, eight-and-a-half, his odious but beady-eyed daughter, also has a role. "Perhaps he's one of those fiendish pedagogues!" she tells Pa, observing what another visitor to Freshwater, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, gets up to at the beach with little girls. Truss deals in themes rather than plots, and in *Tennyson's Gift* she variously and acutely explores isolation, loneliness, egotism, rejection and the corrosive potential of the artistic temperament. There's a lot about sex, but most of it is in

the head (or on it — Lorenzo's large hands, smelling of sandalwood and other people's hair oil, are good at locating the Bump of Amativeness).

It is a richly entertaining book, and at times a very moving one. There is a scene where Ellen Terry, to Lewis Carroll's great alarm, breaks down and sobs against his chest. "Sensing that something was required, Dodgson did not of course embrace the tearful woman, but tapped her on the shoulder a couple of times, as though telling a wrestler to break his hold." Finally, she sinks into a chair — and crushes his origami.

"The funniest novel ever written about a Victorian Poet Laureate," asserts the publisher — an original, if modest, claim for a blurb. I must check with the London Library. If anyone has borrowed the complete works of Wordsworth or Alfred Austin recently, the votaries of those worthies may have to fasten their seatbelts.



Richard Ford
Independence Day

Come and hear Richard Ford reading:

- 10 July Books Etc, Charing Cross Road, London, WC2... 6.30pm
- 11 July Waterstone's, Islington Green, London, N1... 7.00pm
- 15 July Waterstone's, Deansgate, Manchester... 7.00pm
- 16 July Waterstone's, 93-97 Albion Street, Leeds... 7.00pm
- 17 July Waterstone's, 1-5 Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham... 6.00pm

HARVILL | PANTHER

Of the three leading modern historians of Rome — Gibbon, Niebuhr and Mommsen — the last two came from Schleswig-Holstein, then a Danish province. Niebuhr in the early 1800s and Mommsen later in the century were luminaries of German scholarship, but what determined their interest in Rome was the survival of Latin culture in Schleswig-Holstein. While most German intellectuals warmed themselves in the seductive culture of Greece, these two Anglophiles preferred the bracing atmosphere of the Roman Republic and its politics.

Mommsen, indeed, was one of the few German liberals of the day who abandoned neither his principles nor public life. As a polemicist he publicly ridiculed the anti-Semitic nationalism of his fellow historian Treitschke, and as a parliamentarian he fearlessly denounced the illiberalism and subservience of the bourgeoisie in Bismarck's Empire.

Mommsen's *Roman History* is a brilliant account of the rise of the Republic, its decline and transformation into a monarchy under Caesar. The first three volumes were written in the 1850s, when the defeat of liberalism in the revolutions of 1848 was fresh in his mind; its political bias is complex but unmistakable. Still, the book's exuberance won him a huge readership, and half a century later the Nobel Prize for Literature.

By then, he had produced a fifth volume devoted to the provinces under the emperors. But the fourth volume, which was to have continued the narrative of Rome under the emperors, never appeared. In 1880 there was a fire at Mommsen's house; his awe-struck contemporary, Nietzsche, described how the aged historian kept plunging back into the blaze until, severely burnt, he had to be restrained. Most of his manuscripts were destroyed; oral tradition has it

Saved from oblivion

that volume IV was among them. This seems to be wrong. A fragment survives, but he had evidently written only a few pages of the work. Like Lord Acton's history of liberty, Mommsen's history of imperial Rome is one of the great unwritten works of historical literature.

However, Mommsen used to lecture on Rome under the emperors — always from eight

Daniel Johnson
A HISTORY OF ROME UNDER THE EMPERORS
By Theodor Mommsen
Routledge, £40
ISBN 0 415 10113 1

until nine in the morning — before his students in Berlin. Two of these students, father and son, were Sebastian and Paul Hensel, who heard Mommsen lecture on imperial Rome from 1882 to 1886. A century later their lecture notes were discovered in a second-hand bookshop by Alexander Demandt, Professor of Ancient History at Berlin.

With his wife Barbara, Demandt assembled these notes, together with others, into a coherent work. Its publication four years ago caused a sensation in Germany: the missing volume IV had apparently been resurrected after all.

Of course, this compilation is a palimpsest, a version at two removes from the book he never wrote. In so far as Mommsen's voice is audible here, his style — intended for

the lecture hall — is rather different from that of the rest of the *Roman History*, though it has been fluently rendered by Clare Kroydl. Mommsen's prose had also evolved during the 30 years between his *Roman History* and these lectures. By then he was writing his *Roman Constitutional Law*, which is as stately and erudite as the *History* is racy and journalistic.

The analytical sections — covering such matters as military administration, numismatics and economics — are sometimes a little dry, doubtless because of their condensed form. Yet in the 1880s this structuralist approach was wholly original, and even today remains fresh and pithy. And the political narratives are vigorously eloquent, although Mommsen quite deliberately refused to discuss in detail the emperors from Vespasian in the late 1st century to Diocletian in the late 3rd. For him, politics had been replaced by biography, ideas by intrigue, civic pride by servility.

Yet Caesar, gravedigger of the Republic but a dictator of grandiose vision and decisive action, appeals to Mommsen more than any of his successors. Caesar's legacy was, he argues, far more enduring than Napoleon's — or, he might have added, Bismarck's.

It is clear that Mommsen's distaste for the Roman Empire struggled for supremacy with his fascination for it — just as his prophetic pessimism about Germany (eloquently recorded in another posthumous document, his *Testament*) was matched by his passionate patriotism. Historians of Germany as well as Rome may profit from this splendid volume; and if the publishers were to incorporate it into a new English edition of the rest of Mommsen's *Roman History*, it would be placed in the right context to appeal to the general reader as well.

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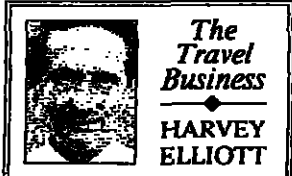
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Sharing airspace with the military

Neil Kinnock reckons those sudden bumps that jolt high-flying aircraft are caused not by turbulence but by "the joins between one country's air traffic control and another's".

As European Transport Commissioner, Mr Kinnock spends a lot of time trying to bring Europe's many road, rail and aviation industries into some kind of harmony. On safety, there is little difference between Europhiles, like Kinnock, and Europhobes.

It must make sense for the millions of holidaymakers who will be boarding their chartered jets this summer to know that they will be as safe over the skies of France, Greece, Denmark or Turkey as over the skies of Britain. But logic and common sense disappear when politicians are confronted with proposals to relinquish — as they believe — their sovereignty. Mr Kinnock comes close to tearing out what little hair he has left when questioned about a single air traffic control sys-



tem, or a European-wide safety organisation. "Individual ministers know it makes sense," he says glumly. They refuse, however, to say so publicly, let alone to implement the proposals.

Even if they did, they would be faced with the problem of the huge amount of space demanded by the military. Though fast jets are allowed to use civilian airspace, commercial aircraft are barred from thousands of miles of sky, often having to divert from the quickest route at a moment's notice because of "military traffic".

The next few weeks are the busiest of the year for commercial aircraft as they ferry holidaymakers to and from Mediterranean resorts. It is also the peak time for military flying. As a result there will be delays and hold-ups caused not by civilian air traffic control but by the military.

Yet senior officers within Nato are forbidden from talking officially to the European Union about the problem.

In Britain the Ministry of Defence has handed over some airspace to civilian use. But it still controls vast amounts — in a completely different way from civilian air traffic controllers. A civilian controller tracks all the aircraft within his "sector" or section of airspace, then hands them on to the person in the adjoining sector.

An RAF controller, responsible for our aircraft as it crosses all sectors, uses a different radar and different systems entirely from the staff of the National Air Traffic Services sitting alongside.

There are 690 RAF air traffic controllers who handle 15 million movements a year. Wouldn't it make sense for all flights to be handled by the civilian controllers?

There have been too many near misses — including one yesterday — between military and civilian aircraft for complacency, even though Britain has a reputation for the highest standards in Europe. If we can get air traffic control right, perhaps Europe and Nato will follow.

Holiday firms offer deals for summer 97

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

NEXT year's summer holidays go on sale today — before most schools have broken up and this year's peak season has begun.

Brochures from many of Britain's biggest tour operators will be delivered to travel agents today with many offering special incentives and discounts of about 13 per cent in an attempt to attract early bookers. It is the earliest launch on record, but already it is proving a success.

Airtours was taking 1,000 bookings an hour before its brochures had been delivered. "The average size of the parties was more than four, proving that families are prepared to stake an early claim on the best hotels for next year," said Peter Rothwell, the managing director.

The travel agency Going Places claims that 50,000 people have booked already and thousands more are expected to book this weekend to take advantage of the discounts. According to Tony Bennett, the marketing director, the biggest growth in 1997 will be in all-inclusive holidays.

Kevin Irie, marketing director of the tour operator First

Choice, predicts Mexico will be next year's success story. "The prices are fantastic. A two-week holiday in a Mexican beach hotel starts at £549, while an all-inclusive, if booked now, would cost only £790."

Some travel agents joined in the early sales with ill-disguised distress. "If the industry chooses to launch summer 1997 holidays now, then so be it," said Andrew Wilson, Thomas Cook's commercial director. "We'll be out there and we'll be competitive but it is madness to launch now."

Thomson, the market leader, refused to be drawn into the battle. "We will stick by our guns and launch in a few weeks," said a spokeswoman. Travel agencies will have no option but to sell the holidays on offer even though many believe that their customers will be confused by brochures for two different years.

The shortage of quality package holidays for this summer in part lies behind the early launch. Unlike last year, when travel agents and tour operators were forced to slash prices during the peak season, this summer only a handful are left for the best resorts,



Mexico could be next year's success story with two-week beach holidays starting at £549

quality hotels or the most convenient flights, and the prices of those that are left are up to 20 per cent higher than last year.

Peter Povey, marketing director of Lunan Poly, claimed that choosing a holiday is one of the most important decisions families will make.

"Booking early gives families greater choice and they can take advantage of free child places, depart from their local airport in school holidays and take advantage of the discounts."

But Keith Betton, of Abta, said: "Most travel agents find it unhelpful to have summer

1997 holidays on sale when they are still trying to find availability for 1996. However, it does make sense to launch next year's holidays when customers are in the country as opposed to the disastrous launch of 1994 when customers were soaking up the sun in the Mediterranean."

US cruise ships set sail for Britain

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AMERICAN shipping companies are about to invade the booming British cruising market, using luxury ships crossing the Atlantic to compete directly with domestic cruise liners.

Larry Pimentel, the president of Seabourn Cruise Line, said that the American-based cruises were in decline and that many companies faced bankruptcy. "To stave this off, they will come to Europe," he said. "They have had the worst 24 months in more than 20 years and will be seeking new opportunities to expand."

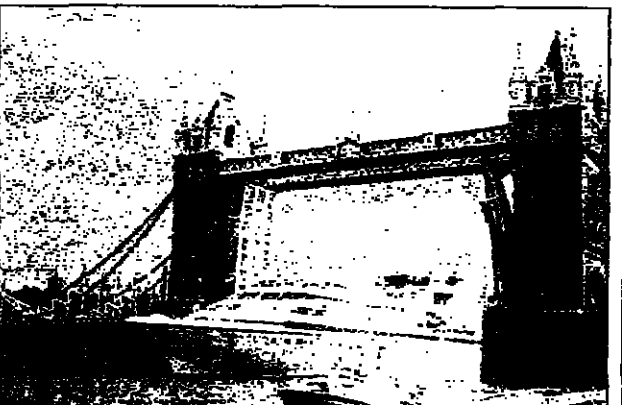
More than 4.5 million Americans went cruising last year, compared with only 300,000 from Britain. The UK is where the growth can come from to keep their ships in business. Already many of the 153 American cruise ships are moving away from the Caribbean and into the Mediterranean, picking up passengers in Europe, especially from Britain. The number of cruising holidays in Britain could

double in the next five years. Seabourn — which claims to be the most exclusive, expensive and profitable cruise company in the world — is itself coming to Britain with its smaller ships, which can sail under Tower Bridge and berth in the Pool of London.

Last year Americans paid £6,700 each to cross the Atlantic, berth alongside HMS Belfast and visit the Wimbledon tennis finals. The average price is £400 per person per day for a berth in one of the three luxurious all-suite ships in the Seabourn fleet.

Mr Pimentel said: "We offer non-traditional cruising because we go where the big ships can't or won't go. We are not cheap; we make a 20 per cent profit margin on only 50 per cent average occupancy. But we aim to serve both new and old money."

Golfing cruises around Britain are expected to prove particularly popular. A Seabourn ship can anchor near some of the UK's finest courses.



Seabourn cruise ships can pass under Tower Bridge

Internet trade widens

By TONY DAWE

A NEW service offering last-minute bookings for holiday properties has been launched on the Internet as more and more travel companies seek to take advantage of the information superhighway.

Internet Holiday Rentals, which started business three months ago, has introduced a programme which allows users to select the dates and obtain an index of properties still available. They can then make a direct booking with the owners by telephone, fax or e-mail.

The homes on offer range from cottages and castles to Alpine chalets. The Internet company charges owners £90 to advertise their properties for 12 months.

"The late-availability service is a perfect example of how the Internet can offer a unique advertising service," says Marcelle Speller, a former Air UK marketing direc-

tor, who set up the company with her financier husband Richard Conduley.

"As well as full details and colour photographs, we now show a daily update of what is available for the summer. Many owners have been thrilled with the response, especially from Americans who all seem to be on the Internet."

While Internet Holiday Rentals is only a small operation, with 160 properties on its books at present and a target of 1,000 for next season, many larger companies are also turning to the new technology.

Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts will launch its own site on the Internet next week, enabling guests to call up details of scores of hotels around the world and make direct bookings on their own computers for rooms, meetings and conference facilities. Forte and Le Meridien Ho-

tels has also established its own site which will shortly offer 12 pages of information on each hotel and rates for business and leisure users.

Ritesh Patel, the group's information technology consultant, says: "The site has proved popular already, having received over 6,000 visitors resulting in 15 to 20 bookings a day prior to the official launch. We plan to offer on-line bookings and are also looking at adding travel-trade training programmes and virtual reality tours of some hotels."

Britain's leading airlines all have sites on the Internet but only British Midland takes on-line bookings. Among other services launched recently is Internet World Travel Guide, which allows users to select a country on a world map and find out about local places of interest, hotels, tour agencies, car rental firms and flights.

Hotels aim to cash in on 'Gazza' effect

By DAVID CHURCHILL

HOTELIERS are hoping that the "Gazza effect" will see a boom in hotel weddings after the much-publicised marriage of Paul Gascoigne to Sheryl Faires at the Hanbury Manor country house hotel, near Ware in Hertfordshire.

Whitbread Hotels, which owns Hanbury Manor, said yesterday: "We have had lots of requests for wedding brochures," adding: "It was the most high-profile wedding we have catered for and we think that the way it was handled will have impressed other people in the public eye, who want to get married in a luxury hotel."

Simon Box, product director of the tour operator Crystal Britain, which features Hanbury Manor in its brochures, said: "Gazza certainly seems to have set a trend. Since the law changed last year there has been a steady increase in inquiries. Traditionally, couples keen to have a civil ceremony have been limited to register offices, but now the choice is huge, ranging from a former 11th-century Cistercian abbey, to Nunsmere Hall in Cheshire."

Several hundred English hotels are understood to have been granted a licence to hold wedding ceremonies since the Marriage Act 1994 came into force last year. Forte Hotels,

the UK's leading chain, has 41 hotels in England and Wales with licences, with several more pending. Forte's Waldorf Hotel in central London, for example, says it has had "a dramatic increase in the number of wedding ceremonies".

But Thistle Hotels, the second biggest chain, with more than 100 hotels, has only six with licences. "We are hopeful that the number of winter bookings will also increase," a spokesman said.

Smaller independent hotels are also taking advantage of the law. The Little Thakeham country house hotel in Sturington, West Sussex, says it has about three ceremonies a week. The Four Seasons in London, however, has had only three weddings since being granted its licence last year.

The English Tourist Board added: "Couples can also get married at Allon Towers and Chelsea Football Club."

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Insider's Paris

Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips



Ferry price war spreads west

By STEVE KEENAN

THE FERRY price war on the Dover Straits has had a dramatic knock-on effect on holiday fares from West Country ports to France.

With peak season prices from Dover slashed by 70 per cent to as low as £95 for standard return fares, Brittany ferries has been forced to respond to protect its market on western Channel routes.

The operations director, David Longden, says the Dover-Calais market has one third too much capacity, resulting in "the mother of all price wars" this summer. His company has responded by cutting prices on all four routes from Britain to France by nearly 40 per cent and introducing new three, seven and 21-day tickets.

Fares now start at £45 return for three days, rising to £138 for a 21-day fare (sailing midweek, overnight) on its Poole-Cherbourg and Portsmouth-Caen routes. The old brochure price was £225 for a standard return.

Other reductions for a 21-day ticket, departing peak season weekends, include Caen or Cherbourg for £209 (£339); Plymouth-Roscoff for £228 (£370), and Portsmouth-St Malo for £239 (£390). For stays over 21 days, brochure prices still apply. The new fares must be paid in full on booking with no cancellations allowed.

Mr Longden says: "We have come up with with considerable fare reductions. They are not as flexible as brochure prices, but conditions are no more severe than airlines have been used to operating. If I want to take advantage of a cheap air ticket, I can make a commitment up front and stick to it. The ferries are moving towards the airline approach."

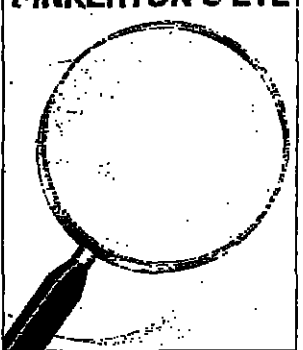
The decision to slash fares was inevitable, following successive price-cutting from Dover, started by Le Shuttle and matched by ferry rivals.

With Dover accounting for 80 per cent of all cross-Channel travel, Brittany Ferries feared a repeat of 1995 when another price war encouraged customers to forsake western ports and sail from Dover. "Dover-Calais has become an Arab market with off-the-wall prices," says Mr Longden.

Brittany, which lost £10 million last year, is to receive a £40 million handout over three years from the French Government. Ninety workers are to lose their jobs.

The company claims the handout was necessary to allow it to compete with Le Shuttle and ferry rivals. Its income from duty-free is a fraction of its competitors', while port costs are 20 per cent higher and social costs three times higher.

PINKERTON'S EYE



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

MODERATE RISK

Travellers should remain cautious in Bahrain as unrest continues and several small bombs recently damaged vehicles outside hotels. In El Salvador the right-wing organisation National Force Roberto D'Aubuisson has issued death threats to journalists, priests and politicians it accuses of portraying the Government in a bad light. The Government of Papua New Guinea has launched an offensive against BRA separatists on Bougainville, the largest island in its North Solomon Province. The risk level for Saudi Arabia was raised to moderate in the wake of the June 26 truck bombing in Dhahran. After the PKK's first suicide bomb-

ing in Turkey's eastern city of Tunceli last month, there is a warning of attacks elsewhere.

HIGH RISK

The four Westerners taken hostage by suspected Muslim separatists in Jammu Kashmir, northern India, are about to begin their second year in captivity. Consolidated Arab pressure on Israel's Netanyahu Government to continue the peace process is developing; during June there were two shooting incidents in Israel. Pakistan remains high risk with a fatal bombing on June 27 in Faisalabad. Brazen armed robberies are plaguing Manila, Philippines, the latest being carried out on a fashionable jewellers in the financial district.

EXTREME RISK

The Red Cross has suspended operations in Burundi after threats to its personnel. A bounty of US\$1,000 has been offered by a Hutu rebel group in Rwanda for each American killed. All but essential travel is advised against for Westerners. In Somalia there is no government to provide security for foreigners. On July 1, Tamil Tigers ambushed government troops on a road south of Trincomalee in the biggest battle in Sri Lanka for three months.

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ATHLETICS

Fredericks puts Christie's task into perspective

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN LAUSANNE

TWO DAYS after announcing that he would defend his Olympic 100 metres title in Atlanta towards the end of this month, Linford Christie could finish no higher than fifth in the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix meeting here last night. The 26-year-old sprinter, who has been training partner of Frankie Fredericks, the Namibian, ran his fastest 100 metres of all time.

Fredericks missed the world record, set on this very track two years ago by Leroy Burrell, by the smallest fraction, 0.01 of a second. But, whereas Burrell, with all the ten fastest times in history, had a following wind to assist him, Fredericks ran his 9.86sec into a headwind.

The race confirmed Fredericks as the outstanding favourite to take the Olympic title, assuming he decides, after all,

to tackle that distance. Before the race last night he said that he was still undecided over whether to make the 100 metres or the 200 metres, at which he is a former world champion, his priority. After the race, Fredericks said: "The decision about the 100 and 200 is still open. I'm the best Frankie ever and that's it for now. At least I know I'm able to beat all the other guys."

The Namibian had the best start of the eight contestants and was clear of any challenges at the finish. While Fredericks equalled the second-fastest time in history, the 9.86sec that Carl Lewis ran to win the world title in 1991, Donovan Bailey, the present world champion, was second in 9.93. And Boldon, from Trinidad, was third in 9.94. Jon Drummond, of the United States, fourth in 10.00 and Christie, equalling his best time of the season, fifth in 10.04.

Great Britain is proud of its 400 metres strength but still Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson, two of the Olympic squad, were consigned to the B race here with the A race, featuring Michael Johnson and Roger Black, to follow late in the programme. However, they made the best of it, both setting personal best times and rewriting the British all-time top-five rankings.

Anthony Maybank, of the United States, ran away with the race, winning in 44.15sec. Richardson, the 1995 European Cup champion, pulled on him to improve his best to 44.52, which only Black (44.39) and David Grindley (44.47) among Britons had beaten, pending the main event last night. Richardson reflected on how unfortunate he was to contract food poisoning in the week before the British Olympic trials, finding the form now that he needed them. "It's too late isn't it?" Richardson said. "I needed two more races after the food poisoning messed me up."

However, this was encouraging for the 4x400 metres British Olympic relay team. Richardson and Baulch, though they failed to command individual places for Atlanta, are bolstering a relay squad that, on present form, should beat the European record of 2min 57.53sec, a time set on that memorable night in Tokyo in 1991, when Kris Akabusi ran a storming last leg to score a rare victory over the United States and take the world title. Baulch recorded 44.57 for third place here to move up to fifth in the British rankings.



Sorenstam, on her first appearance in Europe this year, is one of the leading contenders

Davies takes optimistic view

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN COLOGNE

THE Hennessy Cup is a classy affair — cars courtesy of Jaguar are a fair indication, although Laura Davies preferred to drive herself in her newly-acquired Ferrari and Gilles Hennessy, the urbane tournament sponsor, has a field to match at the Golf and Landclub here this week, including the top three women golfers in the world.

A first prize of £45,000 helps entice, but Annika Sorenstam, No 1 on the Ping leaderboard, making her first appearance in Europe this year, Davies, the No 2 and Liselotte Neumann, world No 3, recognise the part this event, the Masters of European women's golf, has played in raising standards and expectations. Sorenstam, of Sweden, the

US Open champion, defends her title in what is clearly the strongest field of the season. Eight members of Europe's 1994 Solheim Cup side are in Germany, including Neumann and Helen Alfredsson. Sorenstam's compatriots, who have both won twice on the course, Davies, who won the Evian Masters two weeks ago for her fourth victory of the year, will be optimistically chasing what has been an elusive title.

The Briton attracted criticism when winning the Evian, though. It was also the day of England's European championship game against Spain and Davies, a football devotee, took a tiny television on the course to keep an eye on things (rain had delayed

the golf). "Unprofessional," the critics cried and they were right. It was not Davies's intention to offend. "I'm an England fan but I'd been a shot ahead or a shot behind. The TV would have stayed in the bag. I was five shots ahead with four to play," she said.

"The weather had spoiled the golf as a spectacle — there were about 50 people watching the final round and 20 of them asked me for the football score. Everybody was inside watching the match. I also played with the sponsor in the pro-am the next day and he said nothing about it."

Though her viewing was thoughtful, it broke no tour rule — and it was in keeping with her enthusiastic approach to life and golf.

GOLF

Torrance goes in search of third success

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, CO WICKLOW

SAM TORRANCE is rarely seen without a pencil stuck behind his right ear when he plays golf, and, these days, he is rarely seen without a leather pouch in his hand when he is not playing golf.

"Is that your wallet or a tobacco pouch?" Torrance was asked yesterday afternoon, after he had completed his preparations for the Murphy's Irish Open which starts this morning at Druid's Glen, a new course 30 miles south of Dublin.

"A tobacco pouch," the Scotsman replied, with a hint of his piratical grin. "My wallet would be much bigger."

So far, 1996 has not produced the riches that Torrance enjoyed in 1995. Last year, he was only beaten to the prize of the last tournament, and his victory over Howard Clark in a play-off for the Irish Open was one of three tournament victories, together with four second places, that he accumulated in his most memorable season to date.

Torrance feels at home in Ireland, which partly explains why he has twice won this title and might well do so again. One of his closest friends is David Feherty, the gregarious and witty Irish golfer. "Ireland is very similar to Scotland," Torrance said. "I like the people. There is a great atmosphere and it is a very congenial place." It also does not harm Torrance's enjoyment of this part of the world that he rather likes the sponsor's product, too.

Druid's Glen is named after a preserved stone altar of pre-Christian times that can be seen near the 12th green. The

course is laid out on 400 acres within the grounds of Woodstock House, a spectacular Georgian building that was used, until recently, as a recording studio, because its high ceilings provided such wonderful acoustics.

The course's fairways are both very narrow and, on some holes, a long way from the tees. At the 399-yard 14th, for example, which starts straight down a tree-lined avenue before turning right and swooping uphill, Torrance had to play his driver just to be sure of reaching the fairway. On the 16th, a 535-yard par five, the fairway proved out of range for him.

A likely further difficulty is the near-island green on the 17th, a hole that this week is playing a shade over 200 yards, though it may be shorter if a wind gets up. This is a challenging hole for professionals. In practice, Anders Forsbrand needed a four-iron to reach the putting surface.

Near-island greens, particularly those like the 17th, are a cliché of modern golf architecture. They are *aping the fane* brought to the Tournament Players' Club at Jacksonville, Florida, by Pete Dye 20 years ago. Dye was, himself, a plagiarist, however, since the first green to be almost completely surrounded by water was designed soon after the turn of the century at the East Lake golf club in Atlanta.

"Druid's Glen is very long, very narrow and the rough is severe," Bernhard Langer said. "It's a good course, a very good one." Severiano Ballesteros added, "It is tough, very tough." Just how tough we are about to discover.



Fredericks, who stormed to an impressive victory last night

SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series

Somerset v Pakistanis

TAUNTON (first day of three): Somerset won the first day's play by 253 for five wickets against Sussex.

PAKISTANIS: First Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

PAKISTANIS: Second Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: First Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Second Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Third Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Fourth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Fifth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Sixth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Seventh Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Eighth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Ninth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Tenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Eleventh Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Twelfth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Thirteenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Fourteenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Fifteenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Sixteenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

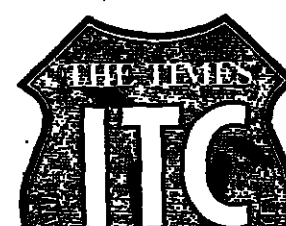
Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

SOMERSET: Seventeenth Innings

*Aminul Karim b. Turner 0
*Saeed Anwar b. Turner 130
*Shahid Afridi b. Turner 54
*Asif Mujtaba b. Turner 54
*Inzamam-ul-Haq b. Turner 10
*Sabbir Khan b. Turner 14
*Rashid Latif b. Turner 14
*Wasim Akram b. Turner 20
*Wasim Khan b. Turner 20

Total (all wickets, 37 overs): 253

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME



1. J. S. B. Team 1 (R. Smith) 9114	52. The Run Rate (Mrs L. Tolson) 8841	76. Old King Colemans (D. Jones) 8835
2. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9092	53. Caught Henry (H. Paul) 8839	77. East Yorkshire Wines (J. W. Linty) 8833
3. Ricardo Mervels (R. Williams) 9087	54. Thingy Boy (A. Z. Ghani) 8828	78. The Limestone (J. P. Woodcock) 8833
4. Singing in the Rain (H. Paul) 9045	55. Olesky 4 (M. Long) 8828	79. Jonathan CC (D. Lewis) 8833
5. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9041	56. Stars Wars 3 (Z. Ali) 8828	80. Astutus (P. Stewart) 8823
6. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9037	57. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	81. Jonathan's First XI (R. Johnson) 8818
7. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9035	58. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	82. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
8. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9031	59. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	83. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
9. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	60. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	84. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
10. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	61. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	85. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
11. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	62. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	86. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
12. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	63. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	87. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
13. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	64. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	88. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
14. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	65. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	89. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
15. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	66. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	90. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
16. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	67. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	91. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
17. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	68. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	92. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
18. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	69. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	93. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
19. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	70. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	94. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
20. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	71. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	95. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
21. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	72. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	96. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
22. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	73. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	97. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
23. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	74. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	98. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
24. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	75. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	99. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818
25. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 9029	76. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8828	100. The Vipers (J. Wheeler) 8818

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The transfer list opened as usual at 8am but will close on Tuesday July 9 at 6pm. From Wednesday July 10, the list will be open at 8am and will close the following Monday at 6pm. From then on previous opening and closing times will apply. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selectors' teams prior to the commencement of the next day's play. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling 0891 866 964.

Batsmen (001-135)

Player (No) Runs Wickets Total

C. J. Adams (001) 905 (71) 0 0 905 (71)

M. A. Atherton (002) 904 (70) 0 0 904 (70)

M. A. Atherton (003) 904 (70) 0 0 904 (70)

C. W. J. Atherton (004) 445 (35) 0 0 445 (35)

A. P. Bailey (005) 428 (34) 0 0 428 (34)

R. J. Barrett (006) 411 (32) 0 0 411 (32)

M. J. Bevan (007) 1134 (118) 0 0 1134 (118)

D. J. Bicknell (008) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

D. J. Bicknell (009) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

P. D. Bowler (010) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

A. E. Brown (011) 222 (31) 0 0 222 (31)

D. B. Burt (012) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (013) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (014) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (015) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (016) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (017) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (018) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (019) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (020) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (021) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (022) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (023) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (024) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (025) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (026) 427 (34) 0 0 427 (34)

S. L. Campbell (027)

ROWING: A SODDEN STRANGER BRAVES THE CAMP OF HENLEY MAN TO STUDY RITUAL GOINGS-ON AT THE ROYAL REGATTA

Young blades' fowl deed gives rowers food for thought

Had my hair been long, my coat ribboned, pink trousers white, boots made of buckskin, with a boater upon my head, button-hole in my lapel, striped umbrella in my hand — no one would have given me a second glance.

As it was, hatless, wearing dark trousers and a mackintosh jacket, they looked at me with interest: one of an uncommon species seldom encountered at Henley, but they have better things to do than discuss strangers. There was the luncheon martini, the tea tent, and the club tents: the Pimm's enclosure, a blue-and-white tented village where strawberries were *de rigueur* and the conversations centred on "what have you done since last year?"

Henley man — also Henley woman, who is part proud mum, part acquisitive sister, and occasionally uncomplaining wife of plumed ex-rower — have a rotten time of it for 361 days a year. This is their time: no self-respecting people-watcher should miss the Royal Regatta.

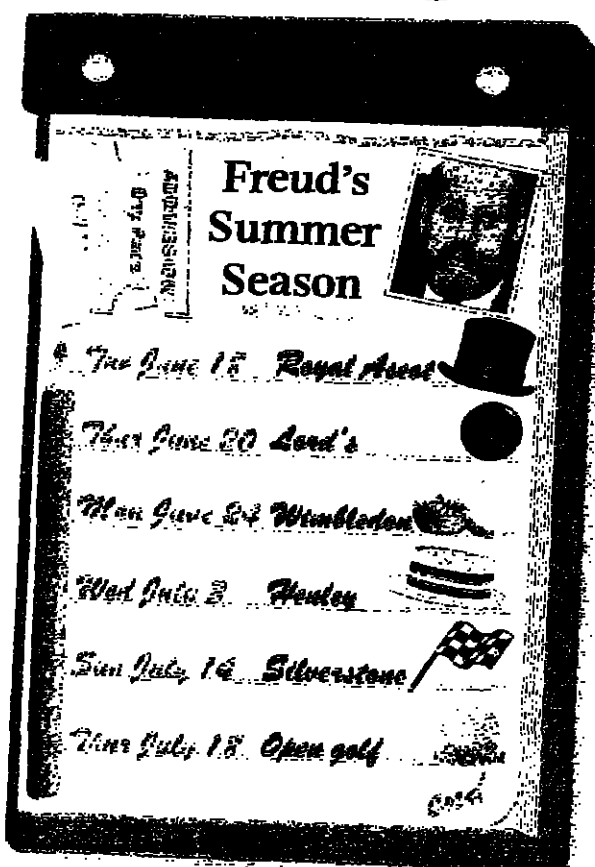
Sadly, the heavens served up a day to challenge the sartorially ambitious. An overcast sky sent down rain that dimmed the gloss of the finery, made limp the starch, and reduced boaters to become vessels best suited to the Irish delicacy "soup-in-a-basket".

At the end of the lawns which provide opportunity for the peacock strut and the compulsory conversation opener, "how has it been?", punctuated by short silences to show respect for those fallen off the perch since last year, is a river. The river. Rowing boats pass by at five-minute intervals: announcements interrupt the well-bred buzz to inform us of who is who, rowing on which bank, for which trophy, at what point in the race they find themselves; also the number of strokes per minute and how far ahead of one is the other.

The rowing is crucial to some, significant to many, and irrelevant to about half the spectators.

The elders of the kirk, bedecked with panama hats and clinking metal badges as they go further and thence, have done a difficult job with skill born of experience: the worse the reason for attendance, the further from the action are you placed.

Thus, the Stewards' Enclosure is filled with knowledgeable folk who can tell navy blue and white from garter blue and white, call "row hard, Ridley" at the correct time, and



are, therefore, placed a hundred yards from the finish. For this privilege they must wear jackets and ties, may not bring in glasses or hampers and are discouraged from breaking wind.

Half a furlong on the wrong side is the Members' wear what you will, slosh around pints of ale, shout. Further down are hospitality areas for corporate entertainers — many of whom manage to walk in unaided, though few emerge of their own accord.

The problems of rowing as a spectator sport are considerable. Rewards come from honest endeavour and fitness and balance and strength.

Cricketers manifest charisma by huge scores, taking many wickets, reverse sweeps, lightning stumpings, googlies, and chinamen, remarkable catches in the covers.

Rowers row: that is the extent of it. In, out, backwards, forwards: speed it up, slow it down, watch the boat behind, or if in arrears notice by the size of the puddles in the water how far behind you are.

Unless they win several Olympic gold medals or write film scripts about the University Race, rowers' names are not known: they fail to be selected for *Question Of Sport*, let alone *This Is Your Life*.

But appearance at Henley does guarantee them a lifetime of Royal Regattas where they can dress up and reminisce and tell all over again of how it was when they experienced their finest hour. Henley, just so long as you are a Henley person, is the best fun there is.

I thought carefully about the advisability of beginning, or ending my article with the event I am about to relate. I also considered using the incident for a separate front-page piece, headlined King Kills Duck... decided this was not the way we do things in broadsheet newspapers.

The time was 3.45pm. King's School, Canterbury, were rowing against Canford in the Princess Elizabeth Cup. Canford were a canvas up at the quarter-mile, striking 34 to KCS's 36. The lead stretched to half a length, diminished at the three-quarter-mile post when they came into sight of us in the Stewards Enclosure.

In front of them, a family of ducks swam contentedly on the Buckinghamshire side of the river, and as the people around me shouted, "row for home, Kings", one of their men — it would be invidious, tabloid-like, to name the culprit — decapitated the duck swimming in fourth position.

It could be a watershed. Next year, rowing may well be recognised as the cruel sport it is, picketed by RSPCA militants. This could bring new blood into the event which may not be altogether unwelcome; alternatively there could be roast duck for lunch tomorrow in the Leander Club tent.



The strain shows on the faces of the Hampton B crew during their race in the Princess Elizabeth Cup against St Paul's at Henley Royal Regatta yesterday

Windswept Henley takes early toll

By Mike Rosewell

THE weather turned for the opening day of Henley Royal Regatta yesterday. A squally crosswind increased the competitors' endurance test by up to a minute more than the record times for many events and helped to produce some early casualties.

James Naylor, stroke of the Sons of the Thames coxed four in the Britannia Cup, was the first to be taken off in an ambulance after a titanic battle with Isis. Sons led by two lengths at halfway but continual pressure by the Oxford students drew them back to win by three feet. Naylor, an asthmatic, collapsed.

A similar fate befell Simon Hattian in another tough Britannia race. Hattian, rowing bow in the Thames crew against a fancied Durham University combination, stopped just before the finish and hyperventilated. Both men recovered, but it was not a day for the meek.

The wind caused different problems for the coxless boats, where staying on course became a problem. In the Wyfold Challenge Cup for fours, the Blaueiss crew, from Basle, Switzerland, third in the Swiss championships, took an early lead over Worcester but Marc Uhlmann, their steersman, failed to counteract the strong wind and hit the first boom as the Swiss challenge evaporated.

Twenty minutes later the overseas challenge in the Wyfold totally disappeared when Sind RA, the first Paki-

stan entry at Henley, failed to appear. Their missing fourth man never arrived from Karachi. The two "selected" British Wyfold crews, Molesey and Queen's Tower, progressed comfortably. Queen's Tower's opponents, Wallingford, also being swept onto the booms early in the race.

In the early poor conditions, the Bucks station was the favoured side, particularly in the smaller boats, but there were still some eye-catching contests in the Diamond

Challenge Sculls. Duncan Nicol held a two-length lead over Peter Ujhelyi, the Hungarian, at halfway, but an increase in rate brought the lighter Ujhelyi to within half a length at the finish. Leon Fletcher, of Thames, had a more comfortable win over the Australian, Shane McLaughlin, the leeway being necessary because Fletcher spent the second half of the course on the Australian's station.

No station changing was

possible in the contest between the Dutchman, Mathias van der Schoot, and the Scottish champion, David Pattullo, from Aberdeen. Pattullo led by nearly two lengths at the Barrier but Van Der Schoot crept back and took the lead in the run-in with a sprint. The Irish lightweight champion, Gearoid Towey, 19, disregarded his three-stone disadvantage to beat the Australian, John Burton, by four lengths.

A let-up in the wind in mid-afternoon made comparisons of time difficult, but all the "selections" in the Thames Challenge Cup for eights and the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup had raced, and survived, before the lull. Among the dark horses for the Thames, Wemmer Pan, from South Africa, and Essen, from Germany, looked good although there was an appeal, not upheld, about the eligibility of Essen, composed as they are of students.

The "selected" Hampton looked comfortable in beating the Irish from Coleraine in the Princess Elizabeth Cup and the unselected Brentwood, from Canada, look their main worry before the semi-finals on Saturday.

Eton's second eight, unselected and the scourge of many first eights at the National Schools, added the Radley first crew scalp to their tally yesterday, but it was the Eton first eight in the Temple Cup, who raised the evening cheers when they raced Orange Coast, of the United States. The Americans using their revolutionary new boat.

The snub-nosed craft led the Etonians until the last 30 strokes when James Cazenove, the stroke, wound his crew to more than 40 and won by half a length.

Today sees the entry of the higher-ranked Ladies' Challenge Plate eights into the programme together with the double sculls, Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Challenge Cup coxless pairs and the women's sculls, in which Maria Brandin, the world champion, from Sweden, appears.

RESULTS FROM HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

Thames Cup

Holders: Imperial College, London.
First round
London B bt London C 3½ lengths, 6min 57sec

Agarotti bt Bedford 4½, 7:10
Thames bt Oxford 1½, 7:18
Nottingham bt Stanford (US) 3, 6:54
Auril Kensington bt Cambridge 99 2½, 7:04
Wemmer Pan (SA) bt City of Bristol 3, 7:00
Wallingford A bt Etonville ½, 7:00
Nottingham (Ire) bt Wallingford B 4½, 7:14
Bowl Bridge bt Royal Navy 11, 7:31
Tideway Scullers bt Watton 2, 7:11
London A bt Nottingham and Union 2½, 7:05

Lea bt Marlow 3½, 7:07
Stanley bt Llandaff ½, 7:11
Eton Kensington (Ire) bt Upper Thames 3½, 6:50

Temple Cup

Holders: Oxford Brookes University
First round
Cherwell B bt University Coll, London 3, 7:01
Strathclyde Univ bt Reading Univ ½, 7:11
Leeds Univ bt Oxford Univ Lightweight 1½, 7:18

Univ of Bristol bt Nephthys 1½, 7:11
Dartmouth Coll B (US) bt Trinity Coll, Dublin 3, 7:05
Nottingham Univ A bt Queens (Holl) 1½, 7:03
Durham Univ 1st and 3rd Trinity, Cambridge 2½, 7:24
Newcastle Univ bt Florida (IT) easily, 7:12
Tilburg (Holl) bt Magdalen Coll, Cambridge 2, 7:31
Rhodes (SA) bt Edinburgh Univ 4½, 7:28

Atlantic City (US) bt Nihon Univ (Japan)

2½, 7:18
Dartmouth A (US) bt Ridley Coll (Can) 2½, 6:56
Nottingham
Oxford 1½, 7:13
Eton bt Orange Coast (US) ½, 6:52

Princess Elizabeth Cup

Holders: Eton

First round
St Edward's bt Radley B 3½, 7:04
Kingsford CS bt Bedford Modern 3½, 7:30
Shrewsbury A bt Abingdon B 3½, 7:34
Abingdon A bt Etonville 2, 7:23
King's, Chelster bt Chesham 1½, 7:14
Leyburn Upper bt St John's FIS (US) 4½, 7:32
Buckingham Browns and Nicolls (US) bt Bedford Sch B 3½, 7:40
St Paul's bt Hampton B 1½, 7:29
Hampton A bt Coleraine 2½, 7:28
Eton bt Radley A 1½, 7:28
Canford bt King's, Canterbury 1, 6:48
Monmouth bt Oratory 1½, 7:19
Brentwood College (Can) bt King's, Worcester 3½, 7:07

Wyfold Cup

Holders: Lea A

First round
Tidwellham bt Henford 4, 7:28
Henley bt Upper Thames easily, 7:45
Lea bt London B 3½, 7:52
Worcester bt Gloucester (Switz) no Molesey B no Sind (Pak)
Bowl Bridge bt Molesey A 3½, 7:56
Cambridge 88 bt Mortlake 1½, 7:53
Queen's Tower bt Wallingford easily, 7:50
Vesta bt Thames Tradesmen 1, 7:42
Type bt Thames 1½, 8:05

Nottingham B bt Royal Engineers 3½, 7:20

Quinn bt Bradford-on-Avon 2, 7:41
Kingston bt Rob Roy, Glasgow

Diamond Sculls

Holders: J. Jansson (Est)

First round
D W Nicol (Upper Thames) bt P Ujhelyi (Bedford MS) ½, 8:29
L J Fletcher (Thames) bt S B McLaughlin (Mosman, Aus) 2, 8:37
M P van der Schoot (KOR Zilverenoring, Holl) bt D H T Pasmala (Aberdeen), 8:30
G Towey (Farnley, Ire) bt J J A Burton (Connecticut, US) 4, 8:16
C G Bulles (Leander) bt A van den Broek (Castledore) 3, 8:53

Britannia Cup

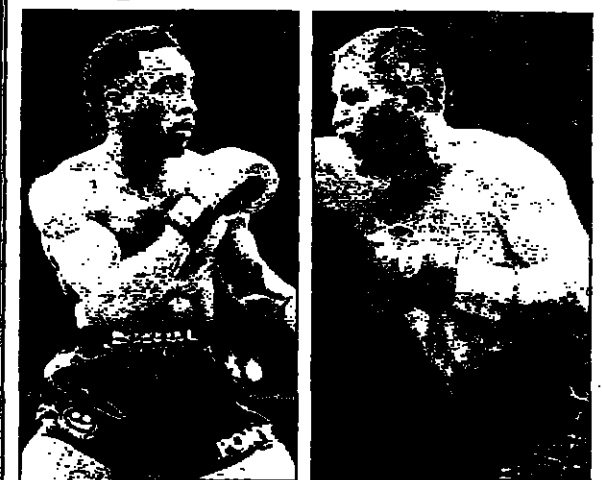
Holders: Wallingford

First round
Univ of London bt Oratory Sch 3, 7:58
Liverpool Univ bt Univ of Westminster 3½, 8:15
Molesey bt St Mild and St Bede Coll, Durham 2½, 7:58
Isle bt Sons of the Thames 3, 7:33
Reading bt Thames Tradesmen 4½, 7:51
Dartmouth Coll A (US) bt Wallingford ½, 7:53
Durham Univ A bt Thames 1½, 7:56
Durham Univ B bt Cambridge (US) 3, 8:26
Georgetown (US) bt City of Oxford 4½, 7:57
Belfast bt Quinn 2, 8:09
Loughborough Univ bt Nottingham Trent Univ 1½, 8:18
Kingston bt London 1½, 8:02
Harvard SC (US) bt Radley 1, 8:07

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

See the big fight Benn v Collins

Five pairs of tickets to be won



The Times has teamed up with Sky Sports to give five readers and their partners the chance to see the WBO world super-middleweight title showdown between Steve Collins and Nigel Benn on Saturday at the Nynex Arena in Manchester. Our winners will also receive a pair of boxing gloves signed by Benn and Collins.

The fight sees the return of Nigel Benn to the ring since his retirement after losing the WBC super-middleweight title to Thulane Malinga four months ago. And Dublin's Steve Collins will be out to do the same to the Dark Destroyer as he did to Chris Eubank.

● Sky Sports Big Time Boxing programme will show live and exclusive coverage of the fight starting at 9pm on Saturday night.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win a pair of tickets to Saturday's fight, plus a pair of signed gloves, call our competition hotline, before midnight tonight, with the answer to this question: What is Nigel Benn's nickname?

The winners will be the first five names selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL 0839 444 505

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times

Glazzard savours recovery from Aachen misfortune

By Jenny MacArthur

GEOFF GLAZZARD proved his ten-year-old stallion, Hello Oscar, was none the worse for his intimidating Nations Cup showjumping experience in Aachen last week when he won the qualifier for the Daewoo Grand Prix championship at the Royal Show in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, yesterday.

Despite having to battle through driving rain, Glazzard, who had the advantage of going last in the second

round against the clock, finished more than three seconds faster than the runner-up, Geoff Luckett, on Vantage — the only other rider to have a double clear round. Nick Skelton, a member of Britain's Olympic showjumping team, finished third on Cathleen — the mare he will ride in the King George V Gold Cup at Hickstead next week — with the fastest round on four faults.

"I'm a happier man this week," Glazzard said, referring to his experience in Aachen, when Hello Oscar, a

last-minute replacement for Skelton's Dollar Girl in the Nations Cup team, incurred 20 faults in each round. "He wasn't ready," Glazzard said. "I'm just relieved it hasn't affected him."

Although the fences yesterday were smaller, the difficult conditions put a premium on careful jumping. Several riders, including Skelton, faulted at the penultimate fence, a set of upright planks. John Whitaker, also in the Olympic team, incurred eight faults on his first horse, Barry Bug, and then retired the experienced

Randi when the horse took exception to the opening fence.

Only three horses were clear in the first round, Vantage and Clover Chief, both ridden by Luckett, and Hello Oscar. Luckett went clear again in the second on Vantage, but dropped out of contention on Clover Chief when he ran out at the second part of the double. Glazzard then seized his chance. Barely moving out of a steady canter, he produced a second faultless round, 3.22sec faster than Luckett's on Vantage, to claim

the first prize of £1,500. Glazzard now has a commanding lead in the Daewoo championship — a new series which is revitalising showjumping on the county show circuit.

Robert Smith, the non-travelling reserve for the Great Britain Olympic showjumping team, has nominated Tees Hanover as his first-choice horse, not Orlos as stated yesterday.

DAEWOO GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER: 1. Hello Oscar (G. Glazzard) 0 in 51.50; 2. Vantage (G. Luckett) 0 in 54.72; 3. Cathleen (N. Skelton) 4 in 42.0

DRUGS IN SPORT

Modahl condemns laboratory approval

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) decision to renew the accreditation of the Lisbon laboratory that provided the positive drugs finding on Diane Modahl has provoked an angry response from her coach and husband (John Goodbody writes).

"I find this decision absolutely incredible. It is an insult to innocent athletes," Vicente Modahl said yesterday. "It is disgraceful that the IOC do not accept that this laboratory was wrong. Believe me, the Portuguese laboratory has not heard the last of this matter."

In March, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) expressed "serious concern" over the way the Portuguese facility had dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test which "could have provided a final resolution of this matter". IAAF sources say

it is unlikely to use the laboratory for testing in the foreseeable future.

Professor Lessops Reys, the scientific director, has always insisted that his laboratory had "rigorously followed regulations and was always available to clear up the truth". Speaking after Modahl was finally cleared by the IAAF of taking a performance-enhancing drug, he said there was not enough left of her urine specimen to carry out a third test.

Modahl will run for Great Britain in the Atlanta Olympics. Her lawyers argued that, because the sample had become contaminated, the testosterone-epitestosterone ratio had been altered through a build-up of bacteria and not from an illicit elevation of testosterone, the male hormone. Modahl is now suing the British Athletic Federation for £480,000 compensation.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bristol fashion lures Jones from Swansea

ROBERT JONES will end a 13-year association with Swansea to join the English first-division side Bristol in the next rugby union season. Jones, 31, the former British Isles scrum half has sacrificed a testimonial, worth up to £100,000, to replace Kyrn Bracken — who signed for Saracens last month — at the Memorial Ground.

Jones will have to ask Swansea to ignore his present contract when he signs his two-year deal, estimated to be worth £50,000 a year, with Bristol. His salary at Bristol will more than double the amount the 54-times capped former Wales scrum half could have expected from the double Heineken League champions. Jones will be linking up once again with the former Wales coach, Alan Davies.

□ RUGBY LEAGUE: David Stephenson, the first British player to test positive for anabolic steroids, will resume his career at Oldham after the completion of a two-year ban next spring.

□ CRICKET: Andy Flower, captain of Zimbabwe for the past three years, resigned yesterday, barely a month before the team begins its tour of Sri Lanka. Flower played in 16 tests, 12 as captain, and scored 1,049 runs at an average of 49.95.

□ BOWLS: Scotland, who have not won the British team title since 1980, virtually sealed the home international series at Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, yesterday, when they came through a difficult game with the host country, Ireland, winning 121-103.

POLO

Heguy brothers give C S Brooks the edge

THE tournament for the British open championships closed yesterday on Brook Johnson's beautiful ground, Brookfield, near Midhurst, between his team, C S Brooks, and Gulf Stream, who are put together by Bill Bond-Elliott. C S Brooks won 15-10 (John Watson writes).

Although the wet conditions caused ponies to skid dangerously and players to misfire, both sides galloped and went for the ball without restraint. Gulf Stream are pivoled on their captain, Mike Azarro, a dynamic No 3 from the United States, who was staunchly supported in the forward areas by Andrew Hine and Will Lucas.

But C S Brooks, built round the Heguy brothers, Eduardo and Ignacio, from Argentina, had the edge throughout. Brook Johnson's quartet also possessed the advantage

of fielding, in their 22-goal line-up, a brace of up-and-coming young English players, Sebastian Dawney and John Fisher, both of whom looked to be under-handicapped.

Once again, Ignacio Heguy displayed his habit of shouting at his fellow players. He also frequently appealed for fouls, which is an infringement of the rules and for which his squad should have been penalised. Azarro scored all of Gulf Stream's goals but one. C S Brooks were leading by only one goal in the fourth chuk, but the Heguy brothers were co-operating at their most effective in the last two and that secured victory for C S Brooks.

C S Brooks: 1. J Fisher (1), 2. Heguy (9), 3. E Heguy (10), back: S Dawney (2). GULF STREAM: 1. Will Lucas (6), 2. A Hine (6), 3. M Azarro (10), back: W Bond-Elliott (6).

TENNIS: CROAT FACES DEFEAT AFTER STOLTENBERG SEIZES INITIATIVE IN RAIN-INTERRUPTED QUARTER-FINAL AT WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ivanisevic left teetering on the brink McGrath faces uphill task in semi-final

By Alex Ramsay

MEREDITH MCGRATH likes mountains. Many years ago she forsook the American Midwest in favour of the lumpy landscape of Switzerland, and her idea of a relaxing holiday is to scramble up Mount Kilimanjaro. Today, she will attempt to scale the highest peak in her career, and should she reach the summit, should she beat Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, a place in the final will be hers.

It has all come as something of a surprise to McGrath. Never one for plotting her route through the draw in any tournament, her only ambition when she arrived at Wimbledon was to win her first match. But then planning anything in McGrath's career has been doomed to failure. At the tender age of 25 she is, in tennis terms, middle-aged and yet she is still waiting to make her great breakthrough.

Having overcome a series of injuries, she is ranked No 27 in the world. She has won only three singles titles, though two of them have come on grass, the latest in Birmingham two weeks ago.

So far, she has put paid to the hopes of two seeds, Amanda Coetzer, in the second round, and Mary Joe Fernandez, in the quarter-finals. Sánchez Vicario poses the same kind of counter-punching challenge, albeit a much greater one. They last met at Amelia Island in the spring, when Sánchez Vicario won in two tight sets. That was on clay, though, Sánchez Vicario's terrain, and Wimbledon is a different matter entirely.

Kimiko Date also faces an

uphill struggle to reach the final. The diminutive Date must overcome Steffi Graf and few would put money on that. Yet she is one of only two players to have beaten Graf this year. Playing for her country in the Fed Cup, she was being steam-rollered by the world No 1 in the first set but came back to win 12-10 in the third. Date, not one for great outbursts of emotion, admitted it was the greatest moment in her career.

Date's game, however, is not built for grass. Her serve is less than impressive — she has



become the double-fault queen of the semi-finals — and volleys are not her forte, but she is not the sort to turn to jelly at the thought of playing the champion. Facing opponents with more clout but a weaker nerve, she has already done for Conchita Martínez and Mary Pierce by bidding her time and nailing them in the third set.

To win at Wimbledon has been her ambition since she was a girl, but asking Date to reach the same heights as she did in the Fed Cup is like asking her to climb the north-west face of the Eiger in roller-skates. Maybe she could ask McGrath for a few pointers.



Stoltenberg serves powerfully on his way to an unexpected two-sets lead over Ivanisevic

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

He is one of those dangerous men of sport, one of those types you cannot take your eyes off. From the same mould as Hristo Stoichkov, the Bulgarian striker, who you expect every minute to walk off the pitch and start bayonetting the crowd.

Though Ivanisevic seems principally to aim his anger and frustrations at reasonably deserving targets: tennis balls, umpires, line-judges — cannon fodder all, who must take all such things in the line of duty. But his favourite target, after tennis balls, is himself, a person he seems to find infinitely unsatisfactory, perpetually



Ivanisevic under pressure

ally incapable of listening to the advice and threats that Goran heaps upon him.

Among his many legitimate complaints against himself can be that he donated the Wimbledon title to Andre Agassi. In his first final in 1992, he committed the unpardonable crime of failing to test Agassi's nerve to the limit; and Agassi seized his chance as gratitude replaced disbelief. Ivanisevic is also perpetually on the point of conquering Ivanisevic. He managed to do it in the dark of the winter, winning the Grand Slam Cup — the end-of-season big-money shindig — by taking a week off before it, not so much as looking, still less scowling at a tennis ball. He came into it fresh, without expecting much, and creamed the lot of them.

You cannot treat Wimbledon like that — well, Agassi did this year, and look what happened to him. That is doubly true for a man who knows that he has the ability to win: and ability that is all in the long and stringy frame of his. The limbs are a series of levers, at least, that is the case with most of us. But Ivanisevic is able to turn himself at will into a human whip.

Serving is often seen as a matter of brawn and muscle, for which huge pecs, barn-door shoulders and Popeye biceps are essential. But timing and balance matter more: watch Ivanisevic, or Stich, or Henman.

The service is the shot needed to win Wimbledon, and Ivanisevic has the repertoire of shots to back it up. I normally make two predictions for the men's singles at Wimbledon every year. I always tip Ivanisevic to be the most disastrous flop of the competition; and I also always tip him to win. He has let me down with prediction one. As I wrote, prediction two looks a bit dodgy as well.

FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP RUN BRINGS BOOST IN WORLD RANKINGS

England promoted in league of nations

By Our Sports Staff

ENGLAND'S performance in reaching the semi-finals of Euro 96 has returned the team to the top 20 of world football, according to the latest rankings released by Fifa, the world governing body of the game. Yesterday, however, a source of some embarrassment to the national side was officially ranked below the likes of the United States and the Ivory Coast in the Fifa standings at the end of 1995.

However, their renaissance in the

European championship finals has been reflected by the biggest move among the top 30 nations — from 24th to 13th in the latest standings. Brazil, the World Cup holders, continue to top the rankings, with Germany, winners of the European championship, still in second position. The Czech Republic's run to the European Championship final took them up ten places to fourth, with semi-finalists France moving up from eighth to third. Scotland have made a leap of four places in the last year, up to thirtieth.

While Ireland have slipped from 28th to 40th over the same period, Northern Ireland dropped down 15 places to sixtieth over the year, while Wales are down nine to seventeenth.

Bosnia-Herzegovina will be one of six countries which will join football's expanding world tomorrow when the International Football Federation formally admits it at its Zurich congress. The others will be Andorra, Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands and Guam.

RESULTS FROM THE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: £392,500

Runner-up: £196,250

Holders: P Sampras (US)

Semi-finals

R. KICKER leads P. SAMPRAS (US) 7-6, 7-6

J. Stoltenberg (AUS) leads G. IVANISEVIC (CRO) 6-3, 7-6

Mixed doubles

Winners: £58,280

Runners-up: £29,140

Holders: J. Stankovic and M. Navratilova (US)

Second round

Men's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £13,250

Runners-up: £10,500

First round

T. Nissen (AUS) and C. Powell (GB) beat P. T. Hand and V. Lake (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Men's Over-35 singles

Winners: £13,250

Runners-up: £10,500

First round

T. Nissen (AUS) and C. Powell (GB) beat P. T. Hand and V. Lake (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Women's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £13,250

Runners-up: £10,500

First round

T. Nissen (AUS) and C. Powell (GB) beat P. T. Hand and V. Lake (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Holders: P. B. McNamara (AUS) and L. Shiras (US)

First round

A. Amis and V. Amis (Ind) beat R. L. Case and R. J. Foster (AUS) 6-2, 6-2

Men's Over-45 doubles

Winners: £10,500

Runners-up: £8,250

Holders: J. D. Newcombe and A. D. Roche (AUS)

First round

J. G. Austin and P. C. Dart (AUS) beat S. Smith (US) and R. Taylor (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Women's Over-35 singles

Winners: £13,250

Runners-up: £10,500

First round

T. Nissen (AUS) and C. Powell (GB) beat P. T. Hand and V. Lake (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Winners: £9,400

Runners-up: £7,200

Holders: W. M. Turnbull (AUS) and S. V. Wade (US)

First round

J. M. Duns (GB) and A. E. Smith (US) beat S. R. J. G. Austin and P. C. Dart (AUS) 6-2, 6-2

Boys' singles

Second round: M. Lee (GB) beat D. H. Kim (KOR) 6-2, 6-2

Girls' singles

Second round: L. Laine (GB) beat Z. Guerci (JAP) 6-4, 6-4

First round: A. M. G. Austin and P. C. Dart (AUS) beat S. Smith (US) and R. Taylor (GB) 6-2, 6-2

Women's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £13,250

Runners-up: £10,500

First round

T. Nissen (AUS) and C. Powell (GB) beat P. T. Hand and V. Lake (GB) 6-2, 6-2

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RECEIVERS AND MANAGERS OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986, IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986, HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY. THE RECEIVERS AND MANAGERS ARE: [Name of Receivers and Managers].

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Golden age of sport entices child at heart

Sport and obsession can make children of us all. The secret of getting the most out of any game, as competitor or spectator, is to go to it like a child.

Off to Belgium for a weekend of total sport, I join a party of road-racers there for the world veterans championships in the maze-streets of medieval city of Bruges — a setting even more ancient than the cobble legs of the competitors themselves. The events are open to men over 40 and women over 35 and there are thousands of them, from as far as Japan, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

Their age and ability range is impressive. There are athletes in their forties and early fifties who can genuinely still hold their own in international competition and the oldest are into their eighties and still capable of bashing their way through 25 kilometres.

Many are there just for the fun and, whatever their age, most of these veteran competitors, when they reach for their training shoes, are children once again. Dressing up is all part of the game.

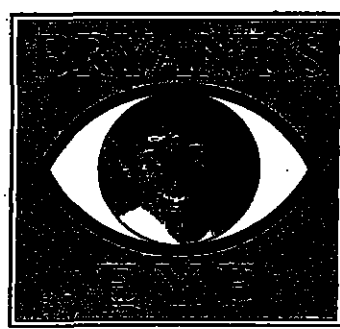
One tall, gaunt, middle-aged American appears like a high-rise matchstick man in Lycra. His legging, knee-length shorts appear to have been cut from the Stars and Stripes. On his head is a baseball cap, on his nose the go-faster nasal strip, on his waist the go-anywhere belt with drink bottles, first-aid kit and clip-on CD player. And this, it turns out, is just his outfit for dining out.

When he runs the next day, it is very, very slowly. But no matter, he is out there on the playground and for him that means he is winning. Up at the front of the races the performances are outstanding — a 50-year-old Swede, Kjell-Eric Stahl, runs the 25

'Dressing up is all part of the game'

kilometres in 1hr 23min 45sec, a 70-year-old Swiss woman, Giuseppina Gurtner, covers ten kilometres in 49min 35sec. Such performances are a testament to the value of obsessive training.

But even among the would-be champions, the childlike approach is never far away. A once-upon-a-time stockbroker of 52, proudly running for Great Britain, puts in an amazingly good performance to finish



fourth in his class in the 25 kilometres. The Belgians supply a medal that is tasteful, even beautiful and, unusually, made of porcelain. He drops it and it shatters. His look of anguish is one we have all seen before. We have caught it on the face of the child who has seen the wheel fall off his new toy car on his birthday. The organisers put him on the head and give him another one.

Even then the runner is not the happiest kid on the playground. He tells anyone who will listen (and many more who don't wish to) how he could have done even better if only his club-mates had made a better job of pacing him, or if only his shoes hadn't given him such blisters.

The next day, the Tour de France is due to make its way through Ghent, just a marathon run from Bruges, and it is time to play at being an obsessive spectator. This involves waiting on a pavement for hours while nothing happens as the rain comes down and the crowd flanders wind cuts across the course.

Turning up to see many great sporting events in the flesh is really a strange act of faith these days. You can generally catch far more of it on television. Nowhere is this more true than in Le Tour. The crowd, desperate for some action, cheer at everything that moves. Endless support cars scream by, their headlights flashing, horns and speakers blaring, all roof-racked with bikes or advertising hoardings.

There are cheerers, too, for the teams of gendarmes that sweep through on their motorbikes in formation. At last, the leaders appear — a group of four through in an instant, headed by the local hero, Johan Museeuw, a Belgian who gets to lead the Tour through his native land.

Then suddenly, with a hiss, the rain-soaked peloton is through, a

blur of wheels and jerseys. It is all over in seconds. Somewhere in there is Chris Boardman, lying eighth overall and carrying the hopes of Britain. There, too, is Miguel Indurain, winner of five Tours and one of the greatest athletes ever — but we will have to wait till we get back to Britain and talk to those who have seen it on television to find out what really happened.

The crowd are happy to have been part of it, though — and their excitement has made children of them all for an hour or two. Not even the weather has been able to spoil their Tour, though every sudden downpour sends them scurrying for cover.

One knot of spectators with babes in arms (triples no less) seek cover in a shop doorway, but the shopkeeper is no fan of childish games and no child either. His obsession is for grown-up things and he angrily shoos the cycling fans from his shopfront and back into the pouring rain.

It is the only sad bit of childish behaviour I witness all weekend.

JOHN BRYANT

'When he runs, it is very, very slowly'

CYCLING: EXPERIENCED RIDERS CAUGHT NAPPING AS YOUNGSTERS BREAK AWAY EARLY

Boardman revelling in his anonymity

By Andrew Longmore

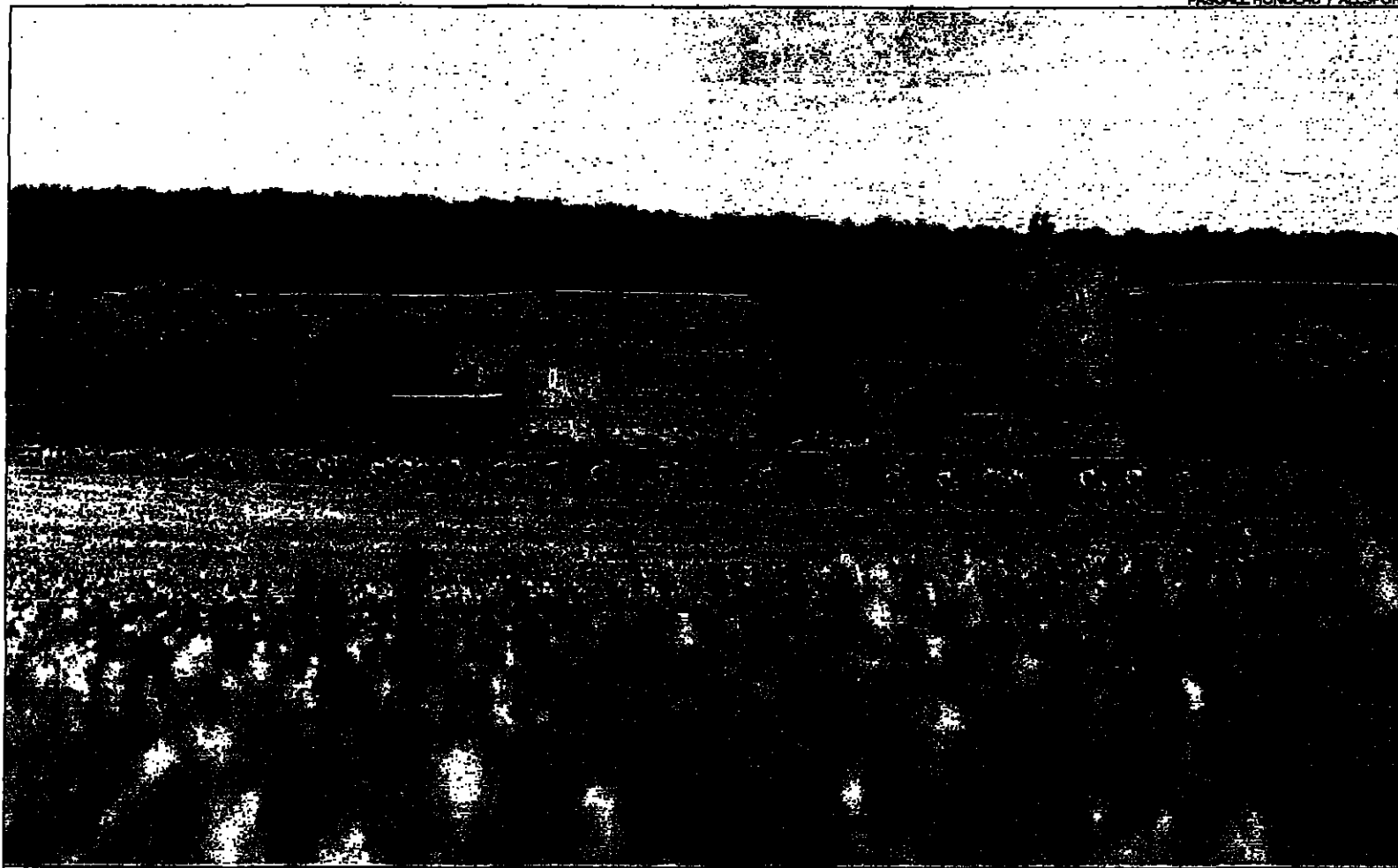
THE Gan team of Chris Boardman seems to be regarding the coveted yellow jersey of the Tour de France leader as a mere item of second-hand clothing. Wear it for a day and hand it down.

On Tuesday, Frederic Moncassin sprinted his way into the overall lead at the end of the third stage in Nogent-sur-Oise. Yesterday, Stephane Heulot, the youngest rider in the team and the new French champion, inherited the coveted garment after a devastating five-man break split the field 20 miles into the fourth stage. Heulot finished fourth, but took the overall lead by 22 seconds from the Italian Mariano Piccoli, of the Brescialat team.

The 143-mile stage from Soissons to Lac de Madine was won by another French rider, Cyril Saugrain, a justification for the controversial wild-card given to his Aubervilliers team — "the team of the suburbs" as they have been christened — by the race organisers. The riders will make their way to the start of the 150-mile stage south to Besancon today shocked that they should be caught so soundly asleep by such an inexperienced quintet. Saugrain is 23, Heulot just 25 and Neilsen, the world amateur road race champion, 26.

To cap a day of tactical glory for Roger Legay, the wily old manager of Gan, Moncassin took over the green jersey for points leader from Jan Svoboda, the Czech who was involved in a crash during the sprint for sixth place. Svoboda walked to the line and the other fallers — Bjorne Riis, Laurent Brochard and Mauro Bettin — also appeared to be unhurt.

After a lackadaisical stroll through the battlefields the previous day, the peloton clearly did not expect such an early break in the fierce crosswinds, nor for it to be so effective. Most previous breaks had been reeled in comfortably. By the time the



Country life: the peloton pierces the serenity of an idyllic rural setting on the way to the fourth-stage finish in Lac de Madine yesterday

major teams, Banesto and Once, had sensed the danger, the chase had already become an exercise in damage limitation. By the finish, the lead, which was once more than 17 minutes, had been cut to four minutes and 32 seconds. Boardman was caught when the peloton was split, but his team-mates worked hard to haul him back into the main group, even Moncassin doing his bit to help his team leader.

Given that, two years ago, Gan were the laughing stock of the race after a chaotic team time-trial had lost Boardman his yellow jersey the day before the first of the two stages to be held in England, the transformation was a tribute both to Boardman, who is regarded as one of the most professional riders in the race, and Legay.

Last year, the team carried too much deadwood, but the hiring of experienced riders such as Gerard Rue and Ronan Pensec, neither of them

in good enough form for the Tour, allied to younger riders like Moncassin and Heulot, has given Legay wider options and Boardman much stronger support. "Whereas last year, we were divided as a team, this year we are united, all working the same way," Boardman said. The form of the team was amply demonstrated on the Dauphine Libre, when Heulot finished fourth, one place ahead of Boardman.

Quite where this leaves the English rider remains to be seen. He wanted to complete his first full Tour in "glorious anonymity" and if Heulot, the talented all-rounder, can defend his overall lead until the mountain time-trial on Sunday, the priorities in the team might change and Boardman's wish be fulfilled. For the moment, though, he is happy to see his team-mates swap the yellow jersey around him, safe in the knowledge that his real test will start in the mountains on Saturday.

For Saugrain, on his first Tour and riding for a team funded by the local council in Aubervilliers, a suburb of Paris, this was a day to remember. He promised to wear a third earring in his left ear if he won a stage. "I'm not sure about that now. But this is the most beautiful day of my life," he said.

It was not a happy day for Once and Banesto. Neil Stephens, the long-haired Australian, who is one of the key workers in the Once team, crashed early in the race and was detached from the main group, while the abandonment of Carmelo Miranda through illness has deprived Miguel Indurain of one of his most faithful lieutenants for the mountain stages. The Spaniard, seeking his sixth consecutive win on the Tour, ended the day in eleventh place, four minutes and 17 seconds behind Heulot, with Boardman two places and five seconds further back.

FOURTH STAGE (235m, Soissons to Lac de Madine) 1. C. Saugrain (Fr, Aubervilliers) 2. O. Heulot (Fr, Nogent-sur-Oise) 3. M. Piccoli (It, Brescialat) 4. J. Svoboda (Cz, Prerov) 5. C. Boardman (GB, Gan) 6. M. Indurain (Sp, Banesto) 7. E. Moncassin (Fr, Gan) 8. J. Riis (Nor, Team T-Mobile) 9. L. Brochard (Fr, Team T-Mobile) 10. M. Bettin (It, Team T-Mobile) 11. F. Moncassin (Fr, Gan) 12. M. Tomenzani (It, Team T-Mobile) 13. C. Saugrain (Fr, Aubervilliers) 14. P. Simon (Fr, Gan) 15. E. Zabal (Fr, Team T-Mobile) 16. V. Foa (It, Team T-Mobile) 17. T. Romy (Fr, Team T-Mobile) 18. O. Heulot (Fr, Nogent-sur-Oise) 19. B. Riis (Nor, Team T-Mobile) 20. C. Boardman (GB, Gan) at same time; 106. C. Boardman (GB, Gan) 4:28:19; 107. M. Schiraldi (GB, Motorol) same time; Overall position: 1. Heulot 22h 55m 55sec; 2. Piccoli at 22m 32s; 3. Saugrain 24:4; 4. J. Svoboda same time; 5. Indurain 1:35; 6. Moncassin 5:24; 7. A. Zola (Swi, ONCE) 4:05; 8. Y. Bessy (Rus, Gazeta) 4:05; 9. A. 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Neither a butcher nor a donkey, but a man

A few weeks ago I happened to be in the picturesque ruins of Dryburgh Abbey. We had popped in — as you do in the Scottish Borders — to pay our respects to Sir Walter Scott but in the process had all but stumbled over a far more modest grave near by. It was that of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

Initially, I remember being rather moved, touched by the fact that this great military commander of the First World War had the same "standard issue" headstone that commemorates the tens of thousands who died under his ultimately victorious command. But then doubts set in. I remembered the final scene of *Blackadder* (emphasising the way our memories work sometimes). I remembered history lessons. I remembered phrases — "butcher of the Somme, donkey of the British Army." I sniffed, turned away and retreated to the safer ground of Scott.

But the next time I go back, I shall linger longer and so, surely, will anyone who watched last night's outstanding *Timewatch: The Unknown Soldier* (BBC2). All the King's horses and all the King's men may not have been able to put Haig's reputation back together again but Helen Bettinson, the programme's writer and producer, had a damn good try.

To my relief, we began with the same episode of *Blackadder* that I recalled in the Abbey grounds, where our far from gallant captain feigns astonishment as General Haig's masterplan is finally unveiled: "Would that be the masterplan that involves us climbing out of our trenches and walking very slowly towards the enemy?" As *Blackadder* says: "It was the same plan they used last time — and the 17 times before that."

Bettinson's assembled experts agreed that Haig's strategy ("not a strategy, but a slaughter" as one of

his fiercest critics put it) did not vary much during the war. Destroy the enemy's defences with artillery, mop up with an infantry advance and then call up the cavalry to push through and behind the enemy lines.

The majority view seemed to be that, barring the cavalry bit, as a plan it wasn't bad. It was its execution that let it down. It didn't work at Neuve Chapelle, it didn't work at the Somme and it didn't work at Passchendaele — and there are hundreds of thousands of "standard issue" headstones to prove it.

The question that Bettinson so rivetingly addressed was, was this because Haig was an incompetent, Luddite commander or because he was the man tragically fated to have to invent modern warfare, more or less as he went along? Her conclusion inclined to the latter, although not quite as passionately as some

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

of Haig's newfound converts who have liked. Misunderstood he may have been, but she never portrayed him as a man without considerable failings, both personal and professional.

There were some fascinating diversions along this path towards semi-redemption, principally concerning Haig's devout religious beliefs. Haig, we were told, had a near fundamentalist faith in sacri-

fice for the Christian cause and there was no greater Christian cause than defending the British Empire. "To fall on the battlefield, in his view, was not a tragedy," said one historian. But as another pointed out, the views of those who actually fell were not available.

My reaction to this skilfully and strikingly assembled film is that of someone who knows exactly the bare minimum about Haig and absolutely nothing about military tactics. As such, I suspect, I am in the majority. Those expert in both may, however, have a very different reaction to Bettinson's arguments — with teenagers, adults, even armed policemen dying — it showed no sign of going away.

Concentrating on the threat posed by teenagers with guns and in particular on a white gang known as the Benson Mafia Gangsters, the film showed the community tackling the problem in an all-American way. Only in

would have preferred to see is *Gunpower UK*.

Nevertheless, on the basis that America just gets things sooner and bigger than we do in Britain, it still made for interesting if depressing television. The film crew had spent last summer in Omaha, Nebraska, where they watched the body count rise. Omaha, the commentary told us, was no Los Angeles or Washington. Indeed it was regularly voted to be one of the nicest places to live in the United States. But the gun culture had arrived and — with teenagers, adults, even armed policemen dying — it showed no sign of going away.

America would you have the streets patrolled by separate vigilante groups known as the Mad Dads and the Bad-Ass Mamas. But if the names brought a smile, the problem did not. Articulate citizens rehearsed the familiar arguments for and against gun control, but it was difficult not to agree with the conclusions of the emergency physician who had just failed to save the life of the latest victim. The problem was no longer one that could be solved by controls: "It's a problem of the heart, people are no longer minded to do things that are right."

To cheer myself up, I stayed with Channel 4 to watch *American Gothic*, the series still struggling to fill the gaping hole left by *ER*. A small boy was being encouraged by the local sheriff to shoot a crow with his bow and arrow. Against all his better instincts, the small boy did. Time, I thought, for the killing to stop.

BBC1

9.00am Business Breakfast (25742)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (56013)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (3904828)

9.20 *Paul Leth's Tricks of the Trade* (i) (4407363)
9.30 *The Natural World: Aspen — a Dance of Leaves* (Ceefax) (i) (842013)

10.20 *My Favourite Nostril*. Master chef Anton Mossman cooks for actor Peter Bowles (6970549)

10.50 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (3323810)
10.55 *Cricket — Third Test: England v India*. Tony Lewis presents live coverage from Trent Bridge (i) includes at 12.00 News and weather (43397075)

12.35pm *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (i) (9268075)
1.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (59100)
1.30 *Regional News* (Ceefax) and weather (6232433)

1.35 *Wimbledon 96 and Cricket — Third Test* (i) (94097520)
5.35 *Neighbours* (i) (Ceefax) (i) (946538)
6.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (907)
6.30 *Regional News* (Ceefax) (i) (946538)

7.00 *Summer Holiday*. Featuring reports from Pottermore in North Wales, the Dordogne, and a review of one of the first fly-drive packages to Thailand (Ceefax) (i) (9891)

7.30 *Eastenders*. Peggy meets with some big surprises as she continues her campaign to clean up the square (Ceefax) (i) (471)

8.00 *Animal Hospital on the Roof*. Shaun Lowry visits Whipside Wild Animal Park where she meets some of its oldest residents, and the name of the orphan Barasingha is announced (Ceefax) (i) (5839)

8.30 *Auntie's Sporting Blooms*. Terry Wogan raids the shelves of the BBC's sporting archives in the show which highlights the action that should never have happened (Ceefax) (i) (4346)

9.00 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Labour Party (Ceefax) (i) (51523)

9.05 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (402029)

9.35 *Men Behaving Badly*. Gary shows his true colours as yellow in a "road rage" incident and a serious damage limitation exercise is called for. Meanwhile, Tony has problems of his own when he suspects that Deborah is having a lesbian affair (Ceefax) (i) (924471)

10.05 *QED: Sunshine with Scattered Showers* (Ceefax) (i) (452839)

10.35 *Today at Wimbledon*. Highlights (Ceefax) (i) (2533818)

11.40 *Cricket — Third Test: England v India*. Highlights of the first day's play from Trent Bridge (234013) N.I.: 11.40 Irish Open Golf 12.25-1.05am Cricket

12.00 *Film: The Caretaker* (1972) starring James Cagney, Jennifer O'Neill, Pat Hingle, Slye Aubrey, Elizabeth Allen and John F. Kennedy. A pathologist sets out to clear the name of his friend and colleague, who has been arrested after the hospital director's teenage daughter dies following an illegal abortion. Directed by Blake Edwards (Ceefax) (266582)

1.55am *Weather* (5163839)

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BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Race and Society: Artists and Photographers* (537353) 6.25 *The Birth of Calculus* (534343) 6.50 *Work and Energy* (539153)

7.15 *See Hear: Breakfast News* (4530094)
7.30 *Smurfs' Adventures* (5678742)
7.55 *Cartoon Critics* (539181)
8.20 *The Brollys* (i) (6721471)
8.35 *The Record* (6275094)

9.00 *Yesterday at Wimbledon*. Sue Barker introduces highlights of the men's quarter-finals (Ceefax) (i) (56100)

10.00 *Playdays* (i) (6667075)
10.25 *The Addams Family* (i) (5883385)
10.50 *The Fugitive* (i) (i) (6443839)
11.45 *The Brollys* (1889723)
12.00 *Shattered Dreams* (14452)

12.30pm *Wimbledon 96 and Cricket — Third Test*. Desmond Lynam and Sue Barker present live coverage of the ladies' semi-finals and the men's doubles semi-finals. Plus cricket action from the first day's play between England and India at Trent Bridge (i) (238723)

3.55 *News* (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2215988)
4.00 *Cartoon* (7861926) 4.05 *Little Mouse on the Prairie* (2224636) 4.30 *Bouncing Back: The Best Bits of Johnny Ball* (384) 5.00 *Newsround* (Ceefax) (813189) 5.10 *The Biz* (7507346)

5.35 *Wimbledon 96 and Cricket — Third Test*. Sue Barker introduces more live coverage of the championships. Plus cricket news (7601204)

8.30 *One Foot in the Past*. Actor Rupert Graves returns to the scene of his childhood, Weston-super-Mare, where he visits the pier at Birnbeck (i) (2088)

9.00 *The Travel Show*. Travel writer Jonathan Furell visits London townhouse hotels including Hazlitt's in Soho and Anouka Hempel's new Bayswater hotel called "The Hempel". Plus a search for the best Martini cocktail in London (6926)

9.30 *Video Diaries: Steve, Su and Alice Too* (9.30pm). After a full series on infertility only a few weeks ago, a return to the subject may seem excessive. But the remarkably honest film by Steve and Su, a couple in Sussex, probably goes deeper into the pain of wanting children than ever before. Steve and Su have tried for a family for four years. Su admits that if they are not successful soon, the marriage may break up. In-vitro fertilisation treatment (IVF) having proved ineffective, they look to adoption. There is the possibility of getting a baby girl from China. The cot is assembled and they choose a name: Alice. But the bureaucracy imposes months of delay. Steve's takes out his frustration on Su, who is depressed enough. Then comes another chance to try IVF treatment and Su becomes pregnant at last. But the story still has a devastating twist.

QED: Sunshine With Scattered Showers BBC1, 10.05pm
Piers Corbin makes a lot of money by betting on the weather. Every month he is off to William Hill to place his wagers on rainfall, sunshine hours and temperatures. He claims to be more accurate than the Met Office and to see further ahead. The Met man says it is not possible to be accurate over more than five days. Corbin is prepared to forecast over a year. Despite his success at the bookmaker's, he is shunned by orthodox meteorologists. The Met Office wants to know his credentials. Corbin will only say that his system is based on sunspots. As he has set up a forecasting company, charging clients for his forecasts, he is determined to be commercial suicide. The climax of a entertaining film is a confrontation between Corbin and the head of the Met Office at a bistro in France. Peter Waymark

10.35 *Newsnight* (Ceefax) (101926)
11.15 *Gaytime TV*. The entertainment show for lesbians and gay men, hosted by comedienne Rhonda Cameron and Bert Tyler Moore. Includes an item on lesbian bodyguards and an interview with Liza Minnelli. (Ceefax) (701100)

12.00 *The Midnight Hour* with Trevor Phillips. Political chat show (43281)
12.30am-6.00 *The Learning Zone*

Steve and Su Pearce (9.30pm)
9.30 *Video Diaries: Steve, Su and Alice Too* (9.30pm). The moving story of Steve and Su Pearce, a couple who are desperate to have a family of their own (Ceefax) (i) (68433)

10.30 *Party Political Broadcast* by the Labour Party (761487)
10.35 *Newsnight* (Ceefax) (101926)
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THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am *Carson City* (1953) (50471) 7.30 *Spider-Man Strikes Back* (1978) (4972013) 8.05 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 8.20 *To See South Park* (1977) (4972013) 8.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 9.00 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 9.15 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 9.30 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 9.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 10.00 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 10.15 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 10.30 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 10.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 11.00 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 11.15 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 11.30 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 11.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 12.00 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 12.15 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 12.30 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 12.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 1.00 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 1.15 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 1.30 *Space Station* (1978) (4972013) 1.45 *Matt: The Goodbye* (1993) (18210) 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England hope to rest their case in triumph

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WHILE India begin their attempt to make history at Trent Bridge today, the England cricket management is already looking further ahead. Far from being presumptuous about the result of a low-profile first series of the summer, much less indifferent to it, it is a case of enlightened men scorning one of the oldest clichés of sport and taking rather more than one match at a time.

England fully intend to thwart the Indians' ambition of a unique comeback in a three-Test series in this country. Indeed, they plan to win this final game to take the Cornhill series 2-0, always assuming the drenching weather of yesterday relents. Under the direction of David Lloyd and Michael Atherton, though, England are thinking and talking long-term.

Both men yesterday defended the unprecedented measure of resting Test players from a programme of championship cricket. Quite right, too. But Lloyd, the coach, went beyond this, saying not only that he would ask for further recognition of the national interest from counties whenever he saw fit, but outlining his provisional plan to give leading players a rest before the coming winter's tour.

The man Lloyd most pointedly had in mind is Atherton and, here, he needed to be guarded. Lloyd is contracted as coach only until the end of the summer and, technically, Atherton's latest term of captaincy ends with this match. Neither man can be absolutely

sure of working together beyond September but, plainly, they have to plan. "I have felt I must form a programme for the winter," Lloyd explained. "I can't suddenly start in September, if they ask me to carry on after the Ashes working party submits its report. There is a two-month period before the team leaves for Zimbabwe and, if I am still involved, that would be structured towards

don't have. It is hard to captain the side and open the batting. He does need to take a break when it is sensible, because there is no possibility of him missing part of a tour. "I know there is a counter-argument that he should have played for Lancashire last week because he'd not made many runs at Lord's. But I had seen him work in the nets and with videos, I knew what he'd put in. So I told him to clear off after Lord's, said I didn't want to see him playing."

The importance of protecting and prolonging Atherton's career is paramount. Within the next few days, he will be reappointed for the second half of the summer and a series against Pakistan he anticipates as "spicy". Test cricket drives him on: it is his prime motivation for playing. But there are times when his suspect back aches intolerably, when the pressures of being both leader and key batsman conspire and when, visibly, he requires rest.

"It's not something I will abuse," he said yesterday. "Last week was the first time I had missed a Lancashire game, other than through injury, in nine years. It is the same story for the other guys. No one can accuse us of slacking, but it may just happen once a year or so that a rest is desirable."

Atherton will not want to put his feet up today, though. "We have been competitive in this series and it would be good to wrap it up 2-0," he said. "We want a victory here and we have picked an attacking team."

One attacking option was relinquished yesterday when Ian Salisbury was released to rejoin his county, Sussex. He did not leave, however, without a long and encouraging talk from Atherton and Lloyd. "Leg spinners have a big part to play in Test cricket now and

we told him that he is our man," Atherton said. Salisbury was thought dispensable once the management had inspected a pitch that promises to be as docile as all others at Trent Bridge this summer. Min Patel will provide spin, however, and Mark Ealham looks likely to make his Test debut at the expense of Ronnie Irani, giving Chris Lewis the chance he desires to bat at No.6.

India are also promising changes. They plan to play a five-man bowling attack in which Anshu Kumar replaces Mhambrey as third seamer and Narendra Hirwani is included as a second leg spinner. His style, however, is very different to that of Anil Kumble and his career has been more turbulent.

Hirwani took 16 wickets on his Test debut against West Indies in 1988: after four Tests, this chubby, bespectacled figure had taken 36. But he took only another 21 in ten more Tests before disappearing from view late in 1990. His only Test since was against New Zealand in Cuttack last year, when he took six for 59 in the second innings, but his presence today is a positive move by an India side that knows it must win.

The present side will not wish to be reminded of India's only previous Test on the ground — they lost by an innings in 1959 — but the weather forecast is grim and the bookmakers have responded accordingly. They make the draw heavily odds-on.

John Woodcock, page 42
Pakistan in control, page 42
ITC details, page 43

DETAILS

ENGLAND (from): M.A. Atherton (captain), A.J. Stewart, N. Hussain, G.P. Thorpe, G.A. Hick, R.C. Hart, M.A. Ealham, R.C. Russell, C.C. Lewis, D.G. Cork, M.M. Patel, A.D. Mullaly.

INDIA (from): M. Azharuddin (captain), V.S. Rathore, N.R. Mongia, S.C. Ganguly, S. Tendulkar, R.S. Dravid, A. Kumble, J. Smith, S.A. Anand, B.K.V. Prasad, N.D. Hirwani, S.L.V. Raju, S.V. Manjrekar.

Umpires: G. Sharp (England) and K.T. Francis (Sri Lanka). Third umpire: D.J. Constant. Match referee: C.W. Smith (West Indies).

TELEVISION: BBC1: 10.55am-12.35pm, 1.35-3.35pm (with breaks); 11.40pm-12.20am (highlights). BBC2: 12.30-3.35pm (with breaks), 5.35-8.30pm (with breaks).

RADIO: Radio 4: Test Match Special from 10.55am (long wave only). WEATHER: Clear in the morning, showers likely in the afternoon.

the players' needs. Without being specific, it would involve getting them right away from cricket."

Lloyd has discussed this in detail with the physiotherapist, Wayne Morton — another who is only officially contracted for the summer. Plainly, he has also spoken at length with his close friend, Atherton, for whom he has particular concerns. "Athens has demands that the others



Krajicek's precise volleying helped to give him the upper hand against Sampras at Wimbledon yesterday. Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

Krajicek towers over Sampras

THE towering Richard Krajicek, who has a service that has been timed at 134mph, was last night poised to become the first Dutchman to reach the Wimbledon men's singles semi-finals since Tom Okker lost to Bjorn Borg in 1978. In play and physique, there were moments when the 6ft 5in Krajicek seemed to dwarf Pete Sampras, the champion of the past three years, who is four inches shorter.

On a wet and rainy day, frustrated for players and crowd, and with the tedium only partially relieved by Cliff Richard bursting into song late in the afternoon beneath dripping clouds, Tim Henman, who was waiting to follow on Centre Court against Todd Martin, had been sent home even before play was abandoned not long after 7.30pm. In the finest fortnight of his career, Henman has been plagued by the British climate.

In the previous four meetings between Sampras and Krajicek, they stood 2-2. Sampras having won the last two encounters at the Paris indoor tournament two years ago. Now Krajicek seemed to have the measure of his famous opponent, who could seldom return service with any menace and occasionally struggled to hold his own.

Krajicek took the first set when he broke Sampras to love in the twelfth game, have recorded a greater pace. While the 24-year-old Dutchman, ranked No.14 in the world, was pounding the ball past Sampras, Jason Stoltenberg, from New South Wales, who has not gone past the third round of a grand slam event other than when reaching the fourth in the Australian Open of 1988, was busy taking a two-set, 5-4 lead over Goran Ivanisevic, the No.4 seed.

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Krajicek took the first set when he broke Sampras to love in the twelfth game,

after Sampras had double-faulted, but then Sampras got the benefit of a questionable baseline call on a deep backhand volley and was able to save the game.

There was no holding Krajicek in the tie-break as he raced to 5-0 with the help of another double-fault by Sampras. On his first set point, he deepened the hole into which Sampras was sliding with an assured backhand pass. Few would have bet on Sampras at that moment, though the American is made of stern stuff and it would not be the first time if today he pulled through from this dire reverse.

I think it unlikely, because his game is not at a peak, while Krajicek, recovered from the back injury that forced him to withdraw during the Australian Open, has a tigerish appetite. He lost the

final of the Italian Open to Thomas Muster in four sets and in the quarter-final in Paris five weeks ago went down to Kafelnikov, the eventual winner, in four sets in the quarter-final.

Krajicek has career prize-money in excess of £2 million, a sum only a tenth of that won by Sampras. In the two previous Wimbledon championships, Krajicek had gone out in the first round, but now he is on the brink of his most famous victory.

Sampras, I suspect, is paying the penalty, like so many, of being over-worked. The tournament schedule nowadays is relentless, as is the players' pursuit of the money available. Sampras was also involved, heroically, in winning the Davis Cup final in Moscow, which further removed any chance of a true winter rest.

As Krajicek served for a 1-0 lead in the second set, Sampras looked bemused by the force confronting him. In the next game, he survived two break points, then held his next four service games up to 5-5, and himself had a break point to lead 6-5. His next shot, a backhand service return, was wide and the chance was gone.

Krajicek, born in Rotterdam of immigrant Czech parents, gained set point with a stinging backhand pass for 40-30



Cliff on song 1
Simon Barnes 45
McGrath's uphill task 45

gaining set point with a brilliant top-spin backhand down the line and then sealing the game with the first shot seen on this all too brief afternoon: a forehand cross-court return whipped past the advancing Sampras on his first service with such pace and power Sampras could barely follow its path.

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Souness signs three-year deal with Southampton

By PETER BALL

GRAEME SOUNESS returned to English football management yesterday when Southampton appointed him on a three-year contract to replace Dave Merrington. Souness will be in charge of team affairs, with Lawrie McMenemy continuing as director of football.

"He was our first choice," McMenemy said yesterday. "He is someone who will have the respect of both public and players."

The acquisition of Souness is a coup for Southampton, but unless McMenemy can provide a calming influence, things may never be the same again at The Dell. A greater contrast with the quiet, religious Merrington is hard to imagine.

"I think I have mellowed a lot," Souness, a former manager of Liverpool and Rangers, said yesterday. "Maybe I am prepared to listen to other people more than I have ever done. Don't forget I was very young when I first became a manager with Rangers. I think I am a better manager now, but only time will tell."

His departure from Galatasaray in May, after provoca-

tively planting the club's flag in Fenerbahce's centre-circle during the Turkish cup final second leg, did not suggest that he has mellowed a lot. But, if his managerial career has been tense, it has also been successful. With Rangers he won both the Scottish league championship and the Skol Cup three times, and the FA Cup with Liverpool in 1991-92, his first full season in charge.

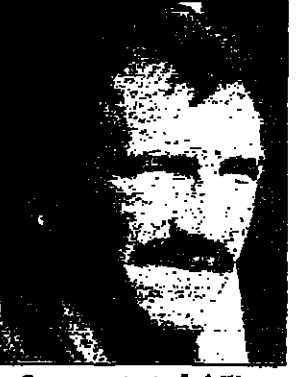
Southampton will be the real test of his management, for it is his first experience of a club where throwing money at a problem cannot provide the

instant solution. He inherits a team which, at times last season, looked better than their lowly finishing position indicates.

Chelsea yesterday confirmed that they are talking to Roberto di Matteo, the Lazio midfielder player. "We have had preliminary discussions with di Matteo and will see what develops," Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, said.

Ben Thatcher moved from Millwall to Wimbledon yesterday for close to £2 million, double Wimbledon's previous record fee. Leeds United announced the signing of Lee Bowyer, the Charlton Athletic midfielder player, for £2.6 million, a British record for a teenager.

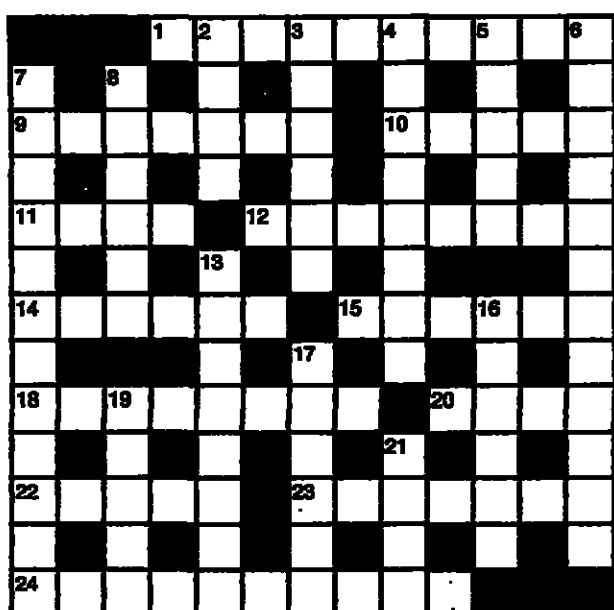
Fifa, the world governing body, has signed a £1.46 billion contract for the global television rights for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups. The deal with Leo Kirch, the German media mogul, and ISL, the Swiss-based marketing agency, will end many years of guaranteed access for all public service broadcasters to the world's biggest single sports event.



Souness: test of ability

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ACROSS

- 1 Disobedient dance (10)
- 9 Sarcastic, pungent (7)
- 10 Rough copy (5)
- 11 Sea-bird; sounds like de-serve (4)
- 12 Mad rush (8)
- 14 An expression (6)
- 15 Sagittarius: radio family member (6)
- 16 Home town of Jesus (8)
- 20 Grain husks (4)
- 22 Lone Ranger's sidekick (5)
- 23 Level, elevated area (7)
- 24 Composer of diffuse, emotional piece (10)

DOWN

- 2 E Indies hardwood (4)
- 3 Completely (2,4)
- 4 Ring round bath (joc.) (8)
- 5 Not asleep (5)
- 6 Risk-taking businessman (12)
- 7 A mimic (12)
- 8 Chink (6)
- 13 Huge (8)
- 16 (Gk.) messenger of gods (6)
- 17 Unintelligent (6)
- 19 The Prisoner of— (A. Hope) (5)
- 21 Signs of tiredness under eyes (4)

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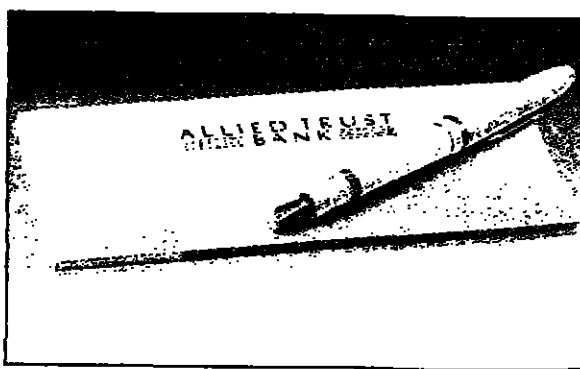
Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 824

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DOWN: 1 Wrath 2 Isthmus 3 Geostationary 4 Chance 5 Put one's feet up 6 Topic 7 Loyalty 12 Vacuous 14 Reputed 15 Limpid 17 Motor 19 Giddy

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